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Ministers End 2d Working Session

JN1812095589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, 18 Dec (WAKH)—The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states concluded the meetings they began here yesterday to prepare for the GCC 10th summit which begins later today. Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs and chairman of the current session of the GCC Ministerial Council, said that the conferees discussed, during the meeting, all recommendations and reports presented to the ministers and that agreement was reached on all issues.

'Abdallah noted that the foreign ministers also placed all issues within a new framework to harmonize with the GCC's policy in the coming stage and new developments so that they will be in line with the trend toward reducing the time factor in the search for stability and peace in the region.

With regard to the role played by the GCC states in resolving the Lebanese crisis, 'Abdallah said that the general and individual trend of the GCC states affirms what came in the al-Ta'if national charter document. He added that this issue will be presented to the leaders. This is in addition to the GCC states' agreement on the role to be played by these states with regard to Lebanon.

The Omani minister of state for foreign affairs said that during the summit the GCC leaders will also discuss the current situation in the world, particularly in Eastern Europe.

Libya, Syria, Egypt To Consolidate 'Arab Option'

JN1612201189 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 14 Dec 89 P 1

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-YAWM has learned from informed sources in Cairo that the high-level contacts currently being held between Egypt, Libya, and Syria will not stop at the restoration of diplomatic relations, but will develop in the future so as to affect the political balance in the Middle East region.

The informed sources told the AL-YAWM correspondent that the efforts are aimed at forming a tripartite framework in the form of a joint Libyan-Syrian-Egyptian political coordination council as part of an effort to close Arab ranks and to reinforce the Arab option to settle Arab issues and to confront challenges that are pressing strongly on the Arab region.

The sources pointed out that the political leaderships in the three countries, along with several Arab leaders, believe that the rapid developments in the international arena, particularly the events in Europe and the Soviet-U.S. detente, prove that the Arab option is now needed more than at any time in the past to confront the fateful challenges.

The three capitals will witness the exchange of visits by high- ranking officials during the coming weeks to hold extensive talks to finalize the coordination agreement on a firm basis. [passage omitted]

ACC News Agencies To Establish 'Pool'

NC1212211089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1319 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Dec(MENA)—The first conference of Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] news agency directors has decided to establish an ACC news agency pool in order to transmit a daily news bulletin consisting of reports about the ACC member states and its secretariat. The news agency pool will be referred to as the Arab Cooperation Pool, "ACP" [Mujamma' al-Ta'awun al-'Arabi, "MTA"].

Mustafa Najib, chairman of the conference and director of MENA, has stated that the decision indicates that the news agency pool will have its headquarters in an ACC country and that the Jordanian News Agency (PETRA-JNA) will act as coordinator of the news bulletin. [passage omitted]

Mustafa Najib said that the conference decided, in the context of coordination and integration among the four news agencies, to form a council consisting of the directors of the four agencies that will meet every 6 months, in June and December, in one of the ACC capitals to follow up on implementing the decision on their cooperation and coordination.

The conference chairman added that the conference stressed the need to establish a data bank to serve the ACC news agencies. He said that the conference recommended the ACC information ministers adopt and finance this pan-Arab project which serves all media and communications systems in the ACC states. [passage omitted]

Mustafa Najib said that the conference has decided that the four news agencies will coordinate activities in connection with regional and international conferences, the Union of Arab News Agencies, the International Islamic News Agency [IINA], all nonaligned news agencies, and all other similar organizations. [passage omitted]

Mustafa Najib said that the conference has decided to promote cooperation in engineering networks among the four ACC news agencies with the aim of integrating these networks. He said the conference also stressed the need to expedite establishing a duplex line between MENA and PETRA-JNA. It has also been decided that each news agency will begin establishing electronic archives, using suitable and low-priced personal computers, as a prelude to establishing a data bank. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iran 'Ready Now' To Normalize Relations With GCC

LD1712112289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1018 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, Dec 17 (KUNA)—The secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council 'Abdallah Bisharah said here Sunday that Iran is ready now to normalize relations with all members of the GCC.

Bisharah, in a statement to KUNA, said Iran's desire was relayed last night in a meeting he held with Iranian Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates Mohammad 'Ali Hadi.

"The meeting came within the framework of a desire to improve the relations with the countries of the GCC and brief them with Iran's point of view in (?relation) to normalization of relations," Bisharah said.

He also said that the Iranian side expressed readiness to "open a new (?page with) the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council."

Relations between the Gulf states and Iran have been marked by coolness since the eruption of the [words indistinct] between Iran and Iraq in 1980. The Arab states of the Gulf stood behind Iraq fearing Iranian aggression on them and threats to export the Iranian revolution to the other flanks of the Gulf.

However, since the war stopped under a ceasefire agreement last year, the two sides have been engaged in continued contacts in attempts to revive the once excellent ties.

Iranian new attitude as disclosed by Bisharah is a new change that would improve the situation in the area and is considered a departure from a policy of coolness.

GCC Foreign Ministers Gather for Council Meeting

Bahraini Foreign Minister Arrives

JN1712155289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 17 Dec (WAKH) [dateline as received]—Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah arrived in Muscat today to lead his country's delegation to a ministerial meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. [passage omitted]

Qatari Foreign Minister Arrives

JN1712171389 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, Dec 17 (GNA)—Qatar's Foreign Minister Abdullah ibn-Khalifah al-'Atiyah arrived here this evening to take part in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ministerial council meetings due to open later in the night to prepare for the 10th GCC summit conference.

Al-'Atiyah, in an arrival statement, expressed his conviction that the GCC summit would produce resolutions and recommendations conducive to enhancing and consolidating the cooperation process of the member states.

The Qatari minister said the summit would discuss many topics a number of which concern the GCC process while others are of interest to the Arab and Islamic nation.

The 10th summit conference of the Cooperation Council for the Arab states of the Gulf starts tomorrow (Monday).

Ministerial Council Ends 1st Session

JN1712190189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, 17 Dec (WAKH)—This evening the ministerial council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] concluded its first working session.

Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Oman's state minister for foreign affairs, said the ministers put the final touches on the political report they are to submit to the GCC leaders who begin their 10th summit tomorrow.

The report outlines the member countries' respective positions on pressing issues for the heads of state to work out a common posture.

The foreign ministers are scheduled to hold a second session tomorrow, Monday.

Ministers Begin 2d Session

JN1812074089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, 18 Dec (WAKH)—The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states resumed their meeting here this morning under the chairmanship of Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs and chairman of the current session of the GCC Ministerial Council.

WAKH learned that the GCC foreign ministers will discuss, during their second working session, the agenda of the 10th GCC summit that will begin today. The ministers will review the agenda to present it to the GCC Supreme Council.

The GCC foreign ministers began consultations last night after their first working session to discuss the issues related to the agenda of the 10th summit.

Mustafa Najib said that the conference has decided to study the technical and economic aspects of the proposed use of satellites, particularly ARABSAT. [passage omitted]

Mustafa Najib said that the directors of the four news agencies signed the executive plan for cooperation among the ACC news agencies which governs the bilateral agreements signed by the four agencies and which emphasizes the spirit of the ACC agreement and the agreement for cultural and media cooperation signed by the ACC information ministers in Sanaa in September. [passage omitted]

Mustafa Najib announced that it was agreed that the second conference of the directors of the four news agencies will be held in Amman next June. [passage omitted]

Arab Diplomats in E. Europe To Meet in Prague

LD1512145189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1318 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Tunis, Dec 15 (KUNA)—Arab diplomats in East European countries Monday will hold a meeting in Prague at the invitation of the Secretariat General of the Arab League.

The Secretariat General said in a statement issued here Friday that the meeting comes at the decision issued by the Arab Information Ministers Council which was endorsed by the League Council's annual session held last September.

The statement noted the meeting's agenda will include two major articles, the first on Arab information movement in Eastern Europe in the light of developments there and the second article deals with studying ways and means of cooperation between the Arab League's countries and the COMECON countries (Council of Mutual Economic Assistance of Communist Nations).

Assistant of [Arab League] Secretary General for Political Affairs 'Adnan 'Umran and Chairman of General Department for Information Affairs 'Al-Munsif 'Al-May will represent the Secretariat General.

Palestinian Affairs

Syrian Force, 'Unidentified Group' Clash in Sidon

Fatah Issues Statement

JN1512181089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Yesterday, news agencies carried reports that a clash broke out between a Syrian intelligence force and an unidentified group at the entrance to Sidon. The Palestinian leadership reaffirms its full condemnation of such an action and has ordered an immediate investigation into the incident in cooperation with key figures in Sidon, with Lebanese nationalist figures, and with the Syrian forces in the area to identify the perpetrators, because such an incident at such a time only benefits the common enemy.

The Palestinian leadership calls for caution and vigilance against attempts to create sedition in Sidon against the Palestinian presence and the Lebanese nationalists in this sensitive area, which lies along the confrontation front against the Zionist enemy—an enemy that is is currently massing military troops in the border zone and is bombarding the southern areas every day in preparation for military action against the Palestinian presence and the Lebanese nationalists in the south.

The Fatah Movement has issued the following statement: The Lebanese Front issued a statement yesterday afternoon on the regrettable bloody incidents that occurred in the Sidon area at dawn yesterday. It is regrettable that some in the Lebanese National Front are exploiting these criminal incidents to level false accusations against the Fatah leadership before making sure of the facts and investigating the incident.

The Fatah Movement vigorously condemns and denounces these bloody incidents. It categorically rejects any accusation against it in connection with these incidents, because these incidents are meant to create conflict and ignite the situation in the nationalist area in Sidon. As Fatah stresses its condemnation of these bloody incidents, it hopes that the Lebanese National Front will consider the situation and the fabricated incidents that preceded the statement by the Lebanese Front. An official Palestinian statement was issued after the incident calling for a joint and immediate investigation into these incidents to discover the perpetrators through a tripartite committee represented by the PLO, the Lebanese national forces, and the Syrian forces in the area.

The Fatah Movement appeals to all the Lebanese national forces to fulfill the aspirations of our masses and the Lebanese people in Lebanon and not to be drawn into such painful and fabricated incidents so as to preserve the Palestinian cause and the joint Arab struggle. This is especially true now as the Arab nation is deeply interested in our people's sacrifices in our occupied land and their blessed intifadah, which is entering its 3d year more determined and stronger than ever, believing that victory is inevitable. Any attempt to distort the image of the Palestinian struggle at this time will only serve the Zionist enemy and its plans in Palestine and Lebanon.

PLO Urges Arab Committee Response

JN1512203489 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1730 gmt 15 Dec 89

[Text] The Palestinian leadership has called on the Higher Arab Committee on Lebanon to intervene to contain any potential negative consequences of yesterday's incident in Sidon. Concluding an emergency meeting chaired by brother President Abu 'Ammar

[Yasir 'Arafat] in Tunis last night, the Palestinian leadership appealed for rapid, joint action by all Lebanese parties, leading figurs in Sidon, and the Syrian Government to contain the incident and thwart the enemies. It called for an enquiry commission to be set up under the chairmanship of the head of the Nasirite Popular Organization, Mustafa Sa'd, to ascertain the circumstances of the episode and to take disciplinary action against whichever forces attempt to compromise brotherly ties between the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

The Palestinian leadership has given instructions that cooperation be extended to the committee, said the statement. The Palestinian leadership reiterated its denunciation of the attack against a Syrian position near Sidon, stating that the attack only serves the enemies of the Palestinian people and Lebanon.

Fatah's Khalaf Denounces Attack

JN1612162489 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 Dec 89 p 1

[By Nabil Nammurah]

[Text] A Fatah Central Committee member has denounced the attack on a Syrian checkpoint in Lebanon. He said that the incident was perpetrated by a group of mercenaries, no matter what party they belong to. He also urged Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian leaders to act quickly to establish the identity of the perpetrators of the incident and hand them over to Syrian forces.

In a speech delivered yesterday during a celebration to honor Palestinian teachers staged at the Palestine Embassy in Kuwait and attended by [Kuwaiti] Education Minister Anwar al-Nuri, Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] said: The incident will cause rifts with the Arab ranks in Lebanon. All Palestinian factions agreed not to exaggerate the incident and asserted the need to close Arab ranks and prevent any trouble in the area.

PLO Delegation To Meet With Syrians

JN1712165589 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 16 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM has learned from Palestinian leadership sources that a delegation representing the PLO will leave for Damascus within the next 48 hours to hold talks with senior Syrian officials on the recent attack against a Syrian position in the township of al-Rumaylah near the city of Sidon in southern Lebanon. These sources said that the delegation will discuss ways to contain this problem and to prevent similar incidents in the future, especially since the PLO affirmed that Fatah had nothing to do with the incident.

'Abd-Rabbuh Denies PLO Link With Egypt's Reply

JN1612115089 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 14 Dec 89 p 31

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has denied any PLO link to the Egyptian reply to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan.

In a statement to AL-ANBA', he said the PLO has made only the Palestinian reply that was approved by the Executive Committee and officially conveyed to the U.S. Administration, Egypt, and many Arab and friendly countries, including West European countries and the Security Council five permanent member states.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Palestinian stance is based on the resolutions adopted by the PLO Central Council in its 15 October meetings in Baghdad. Palestinian representation is not an issue to bargain with, he said. He added: We paid the price of our representation of the Palestinians with 40 years of continuous sacrifice, and the PLO will never abandon this right or allow it to be tampered with.

'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that only PLO representatives from inside and outside the occupied territories will represent the Palestinians in any dialogue or meeting. The intifadah, he said, underlined the fact that the people and the PLO are inseparable, and so are the issues of representation and rights. He said the PLO, as a national liberation movement, is distinguished by the fact that it has crushed all efforts to create an alternative leadership.

It should be mentioned that a meeting of the leaders of all Palestinian factions under the PLO was held last night to discuss the latest developments in the Palestine question, especially the Egyptian reply to Baker's plan and the proposed meeting among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and the United States in early January.

Asked about the Soviet position, 'Abd-Rabbuh, who was a member of a Palestinian delegation that visited Moscow last week, said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev felt, through his Malta summit meeting with U.S. President George Bush, that the United States was ready for joint cooperation in the peace process.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that Palestinian-Soviet understanding was never better. He referred to U.S. and Israeli pressure on Moscow to restore relations with Israel and said the Kremlin told the Palestinian delegation that such a step would be linked to Tel Aviv's position on the initiation of the peace process on balanced bases, including PLO participation and international supervision.

'Abd-Rabbuh described the Soviet stance during the Malta summit as positive, with Gorbachev saying it was not possible to achieve settlement in the Middle East without PLO participation the process throughout all its phases, and that the Palestinian stance was realistic and rational, providing everything necessary for achieving a just peace, while Israel provides only hindrances and obstacles.

Hamas Rejects Negotiations on Basis of Baker Plan

JN1812071289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, has categorically rejected participation in any Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the basis of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan. Hamas warned Palestinians who accept to negotiate with Israel on the basis of Baker's plan that the people will take them to account. Hamas announced that its political stands can be defined at this stage only through its official statements and that at the moment no one in occupied Palestine represents it.

Palestinian Delegation to Talks 'Completed'

LD1712162489 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1354 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Tel Aviv, Dec 17 (TANJUG)—A list of members of a Palestinian delegation which should, under the peace plan of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, open dialogue with Israel on elections in the occupied territories, has been 'virtually completed', TANJUG learned from well-informed Palestinian sources in East Jerusalem today.

Palestinian sources claim that the list has already been approved by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

The delegation includes four Palestinians from the West Bank, three from Gaza, one from East Jerusalem and two who have been exiled and live abroad.

The list is expected to be submitted to a meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the United States in Washington early in January.

The cabinet of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today denied the allegation made by a Tel Aviv daily that Shamir has finally accepted the proposal that the Palestine delegation include some Palestinians exiled by Israel [words indistinct]. This means that Shamir remains firm on his stand that members of the Palestine delegation can be only those Palestinians at present living on the West Bank and in Gaza and who are not members of the PLO.

Salah Khalaf on Palestinian ID Scheme

LD1612182589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1257 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 16 (KUNA)—Central Committee member of the Palestinian Fatah commando movement Salah Khalaf today said the Palestinian identity cards were aimed at providing financial support to the Palestinian uprising and would help in obtaining future Palestinian statistics.

The Palestinian ID, he said, will protect the identity of the Palestinian people and will be a step toward the state of Palestine.

Khalaf, code-named Abu Iyad, told a press conference here today at the Palestinian Embassy that the ID will not represent any financial burden on Palestinian families as they could be obtained gradually starting with parents.

Those who do not obtain such IDs will not face any legal or administrative action for failing to (?secure) such a document, he explained.

The Palestinian ID will facilitate obtaining a Palestinian passport that will be issued by the state of Palestine, Abu Iyad said, afirming that the PLO will make the necessary adjustments in such documents should any shortcomings arise.

Palestinians in the Arab countries will not be subjected to any sort of problems for obtaining such IDs, he said, adding that Palestine's Embassy in Cairo has received this morning hundreds of Palestinians seeking IDs.

On the other hand, he dismissed as false recent statements by a person called Abu Maher in South Lebanon who alleged that he belonged to Fatah and his men were responsible for the recent attack against a Syrian checkpoint.

The press conference was attended by Salim al-Za'nun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council and Fatah Central Committee member and the Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Kuwait 'Awni Battash.

PLO Set To Issue Palestinian State ID Cards

TA1412192589 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] The PLO is about to begin the experimental issuing of identity cards on behalf of the Palestinian state it has declared. The documents will initially be issued to Palestinians living in the United Arab Emirates. Rather than replace the existing passports, the PLO identity cards will be given to the Palestinians as an additional document.

At the end of next week, similar identity cards will be issued to Palestinians in Kuwait and Qatar. The total number of identity cards to be issued is expected to reach 250,000. The new identity cards have been presented as preparation for the issuing of passports.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that the PLO is also conducting an independent census. According to its activists, an attempt will be made to distribute the identity cards in the territories as well.

PFLP Holds Damascus Speech Rally

JN1512070889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Damascus—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] Political Bureau today held a central speech rally on the occasion of the 2d anniversary

of the intifadah in the occupied Arab territories, and the 22d anniversary of the launch of the PFLP.

The rally was attended by Comrade Dr Ahmad Dughan, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command; 'Abd-al-Ghani Qannus, member of the National Progressive Front Central Command; Dr George Habash, PFLP secretary general; Khalid al-Fahum, [former] Palestine National Council speaker; Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, regional secretary of the Palestinian organization of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; 'Abd-al-Mushin Abu-Mayzar; and a number of leaders of the Palestinian Revolution's factions. [passage omitted]

PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash delivered a speech in which he talked about the great achievements scored over 2 years by the intifadah on the Arab and international levels which confirmed that the Palestinian Arab people are living people who must regain their right to self-determination and the establishment of the their independent state on their national soil.

He asserted the need to escalate the militant action against the Israeli enemy, which confronts the Palestinian people with all tools of oppression and tyranny. He also called for bringing about democratic reforms within the framework of the PLO. [passage omitted]

PFLP's Habash Criticizes PLO, 'Free Concessions'

JN1412072489 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Address by George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, on the occasion of the Palestinin intifadah's second anniversary; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] What is the role of those outside the occupied territory in supporting the intifadah? In this respect, there are two main tasks. I would like here to ask the following: What prevents the masses outside from becoming a large zealous force to support the intifadah and provide it with all means of backing, continuing, and developing toward the stage of balancing powers? What is preventing the masses outside from using all their military, political, and information weight so that the national equation will be balanced and our people inside and in the diaspora will struggle as one entity within the framework of a united revolutionary working plan to mobilize the potential of the masses both inside and outside in the battle?

The reason for all this is the state of affairs of the PLO and its worn-out institutions. It is a tool incapable of mobilizing the masses in a united and effective manner. Therefore, the basic mission this year—our mission and that of the Palestinian nationalists—is the struggle to achieve a genuine democratic reform in the PLO from all angles so that the PLO and its institutions will turn from a bureaucratic organization into a militant organization that meets our national aspirations and is capable of leading and mobilizing the masses and achieving the highest level of support for the intifadah.

The other task is the political protection of the intifadah. I want here to ask the following: How long will we continue with our hands on our heart out of our fear for the intifadah and the possibility of aborting it politically, and our fear of the occurrence of retreats, the repetition of the tragedy of losing gambles, and illusions that will only lead to failure? Frankly, our masses want to be free of the fear of the possibility of a political abortion of the intifadah.

Another question is raised strongly: What has the policy of free concessions achieved for us? Have we not lived a practical experiment—from the time of the convening of the Palestine National Council 19th Session in 1988 until this moment—whose purport is that the path of free concessions has not achieved the dreams, the concepts, or the illusions expected by some, and that these concessions have not led us to Palestine, the independent state? Has the experiment not taught us, through its lessons and failures in many aspects, that the unity and firmness of the national stand and its independence from the conditions and persuasiveness of the U.S. Administration and its allies in the region are the sound path to achieve more and more political gains and victories? Will the intifadah remain a captive of the stands waiting for tactical stands that might be donated by the U.S. Administration or the Israeli leadership—the stands that only aim at aborting the intifadah as the facts proved?

O brothers, o masses of our people everywhere: Our enemy is wagering on exhausting our power and on extinguishing our intifadah; it is also wagering on creating a division in our ranks. Let us respond with the weapon of our strong, solid unity; with continuous support for the intifadah; with political support for this intifadah; with directing all the fires of popular anger and the revolution of the masses at the enemy; with the developed molotov; with the war of knifes and axes; with the economic boycott; other developed methods; with boycotting enemy goods and products; and with a complete refrain from paying taxes. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Charge Explodes Near Interior Minister's Car

NC1612144089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—A pick-up exploded today while the vehicle carrying Interior Minister Zaki Badr was passing al-Firdaws bridge on Salah Salim street in Cairo. Preliminary investigations indicated that the pick-up with al-Jizah license plates was carrying an explosive charge.

The bodyguards accompanying the interior minister arrested one person seen running away when the pick-up exploded. He was heading toward the nearby cemetery area and was carrying an identity card with his photo that was found, upon examination, to be a forgery.

The incident caused no injuries or damage except for the pick-up. Security organs are continuing their investigations and the public prosecutor has been informed so he can begin his investigations.

Badr Inspects Explosion Site

NC1612140289 Paris AFP in English 1351 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, Dec 16 (AFP)—A bomb exploded on a main road linking Cairo to the residential Heliopolis Suburb Saturday minutes before Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr passed on his way to his office, police said.

The blast was caused by a small explosive device concealed in a truck parked under the al-Firdaws Bridge. There were no casualties and only minor damage, police said.

General Badr, who has clamped down on civil disturbances, examined the site of the blast on his way to his office a few minutes later.

Source Comments on Al-Sharif Visit to Damascus

NC1712105889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA)—A responsible source in the presidential office has stated that Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif's visit to Damascus today, as envoy of President Husni Mubarak, to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was agreed upon during the two presidents' telephone conversation last week. The source said that the visit is within the framework of purifying the Arab atmosphere and reunifying Arab ranks.

Al-Sharif is accompanied on his brief visit to the Syrian capital by Ambassador 'Amru Musa, director of the Foreign Ministry's International Organization Department.

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Majid Leaves for Rabat

NC1612094289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid left Cairo for Morocco this morning and carried a message from President Husni Mubarak to King Hassan II.

In a predeparture statement, 'Abd-al-Majid said that he will hold talks with Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali on bilateral relations and important Arab issues, including the Palestinian and Lebanese issues. They will also exchange views on the topics to be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the Arab-European dialogue scheduled to begin in Paris on 21 December.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid will head the Egyptian delegation to the meeting of the Arab-European dialogue.

Al-Baz Interviewed on Palestinian Intifadah

NC1312174489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1308 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has affirmed the Palestinian intifadah, which has entered its 3rd year, was not just an act of organized resistance to the Israeli occupation or an Israeli overreaction to resentment of the occupation. It was a quantum and qualitative shift in the Palestinian struggle against the continued occupation, he added.

In an interview with the Egyptian weekly AL-MUSAWWAR, to be published on Friday, Dr al-Baz noted the momentum generated by the Palestinian intifadah has triggered the peace process to proceed the way it has. He said this could be seen in two aspects. The first is that were it not for the intifadah, Israel would not have agreed to start the peace process and would have continued to view the problem as unripe for solution and too complicated. The second, he added, is that thanks to the intifadah, a great number of Israelis now are convinced continuation of the current situation is unacceptable, and that a fundamental change is needed. Al-Baz emphasized the intifadah ended Israel's claims after the Palestinian people had developed an organized, daring, and weighty resistance, not one based on presumptions or doubts in which some are satisfied while the rest are disenchanted.

Dr al-Baz pointed out that in their intifadah, the Palestinian people had demonstrated awareness and extreme wisdom because contrary to the expectations of a large number of Israelis, who viewed the intifadah as a temporary phenomenon, the Palestinian people have continued their rejection practices.

Regarding elections in the occupied territories, Dr al-Baz pointed out the Israeli election plan has started to gain world support, even from third world countries. He

noted that in principle there is no objection to this plan. He said the PLO does not fear the elections, provided it is kept in the picture and the elections are part of a comprehensive process. This is because if the election occurs as an independent event, it will lead to nothing and only will distract the Palestinian people for a while.

Dr al-Baz noted that should the PLO and the Palestinian people accept the idea of elections, this will be followed by talks to reach a solution to the Palestinian issue implemented in stages—a transitional period, an interim system. He added the reason for this is some fear the sudden change from Israel's occupation and full control to an integrated Palestinian authority ruling the occupied territories. Therefore, he added, from the practical point of view, there must be a transitional period ending in full Palestinian authority.

Dr al-Baz stressed the Palestinians were and still believe that if these elections are put in a comprehensive context, they could constitute a positive step. But if they are viewed as a separate event, they could delay the solution, thus creating more difficulties for any future solution.

Joint Agriculture Communique Signed With Libya

NC1412115589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Members of the Libyan agricultural, vocational, and engineering people's congress and of the Egyptian agronomist association have stressed their confidence in the two great leaders, Husni Mubarak and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and expressed their support for the noble pan-Arab trend aimed at achieving progress and stability for the two countries' peoples.

This came in a joint communique signed today at the end of the talks which started on 2 December. The Egyptian side was led by Sa'd Hajras, chairman of the agronomist association, and was led on the Libyan side by Engineer Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Al Ibn Fayid, secretary general of the agricultural, vocational, and engineering people's congress.

The communique said that agreement was reached to establish a joint agricultural project to produce greenhouse vegetables. It also stressed the importance of expanding these projects in view of their economic benefits through the agricultural engineering company owned by the Libyan agricultural and engineering people's congress which is using 10,000 feddans for its projects.

The communique recommended that Egypt help with tranferring technology related to the Arab computer project and set up an information data bank and exchange agricultural information. It stressed the importance of cooperation in the field of exchanging improved seeds, such as dates and bananas in Libya and corn and fruit in Egypt. It also underlined the importance of holding scientific seminars specializing in irrigation issues and of increasing the productivity of agricultural units.

The 16-member Libyan delegation will leave Cairo later today.

Commentary Emphasizes Importance of Sirte Summit

NC1412075989 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Sabri Sabiha commentary]

[Excerpts] Perhaps the most significant positive phenomenon on the Arab arena during the current stage is demonstrated in the general Arab inclination to advance inter-Arab relations to a level where they can rise to the challenges of this stage, and to promote and emphasize these relations so that the Arab nation may marshal its resources within a framework of cooperation and solidarity and deal with its fateful issues in a manner serving its pan-Arab interests. [passage omitted]

Under President Husni Mubarak, Egypt is currently performing its pan-Arab role in mobilizing Arab resources and in consolidating ties of cooperation and solidarity. Egypt is diligently working with all Arab countries in accordance with a program of clear-cut objectives that places pan-Arab interests above all other considerations. Furthermore, Egypt is endeavoring, through cooperation with its Arab sisters, to promote its relations with all the Arab countries to shoulder the responsibilities of this stage. This stage requires extensive joint Arab efforts to emphasize and demonstrate the Arab nation's role in dealing with the new international status. Such efforts would enable the Arab nation to defend its interests and help it to reach its objectives aimed at comprehensive development.

President Mubarak's visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah yesterday falls within this context. His meeting with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi during the Sirte summit is an extremely important event not only on the level of Egyptian-Libyan relations, but also on the level of promoting and boosting joint Arab action. The talks during the Sirte summit centered on the need to create an Arab economic policy on a technical scientific basis for the sake of realizing positive economic results. This economic policy would serve the pan-Arab economy and safeguard the standard of Arab economic development provided this takes place within the Arab League framework.

In this regard, leaders Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi exchanged views on current world events in light of the political and economic changes and their impact on the world and the Arab nation, and in light of the creation of Arab and international economic groupings. Hence, the Sirte summit strongly demonstrates the new spirit in inter-Arab relations which aims to marshal Arab resources and potentials in accordance with a pan-Arab concept which would respond to the prerogatives of the stage and would demonstrate the extreme importance of

the joint Arab action both on the bilateral level and through the three Arab groupings: The Arab Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union, and the Gulf Cooperation Council. Joint action within these groupings would enhance the Arab League's role in realizing the Arab nation's aspirations.

Furthermore, the Sirte summit and the two Arab leaders' talks reflected positively on the Arab nation. They also have helped the Egyptian-Libyan relations advance toward a new step to assess what has already been achieved in bilateral cooperation since the Tobruk declaration, which was issued at the end of the two leaders' meeting in October. [passage omitted]

This new step accomplished by the Sirte summit on the bilateral and Arab levels is a translation of the two leaders' interest to promote the general Arab inclination and coordinate Arab efforts in collective Arab work which is confidently forging ahead not only toward unifying Arab ranks and enhancing solidarity to confront the challenges of this stage but also toward continuing Arab efforts in accordance with a far-sighted concept of dealing with new facts on the international level. [passage omitted]

Mubarak on Economy, Relations With Syria, Libya

NC1612224089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met this evening with National Democratic Party [NDP] officials at the party's political club. Senior state officials, members of the People's Assembly, and leading political and popular figures attended the meeting.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said after the meeting that President Mubarak had explained and analyzed the current economic situation, referring to the economic reform measures and the need for these measures to take the people's interests into consideration. President Mubarak instructed the government and the NDP to study ways of modernizing the public sector, with a view to increasing and upgrading productivity in the interests of the public sector employees. He stressed that upgrading the public sector is part of the policy designed to bridge the gap in food production as well as the gap between imports and exports. President Mubarak pointed out the increasing burdens of subsidies borne by the state, particularly with respect to wheat, sugar, and other commodities. He referred to the need for the government to standardize prices gradually in order to end any exploitation and to exert the utmost efforts to provide the necessary commodities for the people. The president emphasized that the people must realize that when the state embarks on any measure or decision it acts on the basis that this decision will be in the public interest and that it will necessarily be put into effect in the interest of the citizens.

President Mubarak also talked about the ongoing talks between Egypt and the World Bank and the IMF. He pointed out that 1989 was marked by political activity at both the Arab and international levels to promote our policies and interests.

Turning to foreign policy, President Mubarak said Egypt maintains distinguished relations with all countries, whether East or West. He pointed out that the international arena is the scene of a series of wide-scale political changes that will have economic consequences both in the short and medium term, and this requires Arab efforts for economic cooperation.

Regarding inter-Arab relations, President Mubarak explained the developments and contacts that were held in the past few weeks in conjunction and cooperation with the PLO and Jordan, and noted his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn. He referred in this respect to Egypt's relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council member states, his meeting with representatives of the two parts of Yemen, and the ongoing efforts for coordination among the Arab Cooperation Council members. He also touched on the situation in southern Sudan. He added that the coming weeks will witness intensive Arab activity, noting that the Qatari amir and Tunisian president will visit Egypt soon.

President Mubarak described his recent visit to Libya as positive and said that it was marked by a spirit of fraternity, responsibility, and frankness with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

On relations with Syria, President Mubarak said that the positive progress in these relations was demonstrated by opening the doors between the two countries and resuming air traffic between them. President Mubarak added that he will send a ministerial-level envoy to Syria to convey an oral message to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Before meeting with the NDP political club members, President Mubarak conferred with the party's representatives in the People's Assembly and was informed of the steps prepared by the party committees and secretariat to upgrade the public sector.

MENA Reports Government Statement

NC1612171289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA)—People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub opened the assembly session this morning at which Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi delivered the government's policy statement.

In the statement, Dr Sidqi wished the assembly success in achieving what is good for Egypt and its people. He emphasized that the government, in cooperating with the People's Assembly during the past 3 years, has many achievements to its credit and has accomplished a colossal amount of work in all domains.

Dr Sidqi said: I will present the assembly's secretariat with a report on what has been achieved during the recent period, thanks to the assembly's support for the government.

He added: If we review the past 3 years, we will see that the government has accomplished a great deal. During the 1st year—1986-87—when the government took charge of matters in Egypt, it focused on a major problem; namely, the scarcity of foreign currency. The government succeeded in establishing the banking market through which we have been able to meet many of the foreign currency needs. During the past 3 years, over $58 billion has been saved. Although this amount is insufficient to meet all the requirements, it is nevertheless a considerable achievement.

Dr Sidqi said that the government has issued several decisions in order to clear the atmosphere relating to investments, to boost investment operations, and to bridge existing gaps. These measures include the 1987-88 law regulating investment companies and the 1988-89 investment law, he stated.

The prime minister then referred to six important issues: The food gap, the development of administration in the productive units, the state's general budget deficit deficit, foreign debt, unemployment, and the problem of drugs.

Referring to the government's new program for the agricultural sector, Dr Sidqi said that approximately 1.578 billion pounds have been allocated to the agriculture, irrigation, and pavement [rasf] sector, including 720 million pounds for private sector projects.

The prime minister said that the government is implementing an integrated plan to expand land reclamation. With the participation of the public sector, the government provided the infrastructure for an area of more than 500,000 feddan during the period from 1982 to 1989. The private sector is carrying out the internal reclamation and cultivation work.

The prime minister then talked about the state's policy in the management of productive units. He emphasized the government's eagerness to secure objective conditions and to modernize the administration in all sectors.

He referred to the measures the government has taken in this respect, including the establishment of the free banking market and the desire to complete projects that are under way, so that production may begin.

Dr Sidqi declared that the government is studying the adoption of new measures to liberalize the administration in public sector companies.

Regarding the question of debts, the prime minister said that Egypt's overall nonmilitary foreign public debts amounted to $29.7 billion on 30 June 1989. He noted that the government's policy is to pay the installments and interest on those debts that are not subject to rescheduling, and to defer the settlement of the debts that can be rescheduled. He pointed out that negotiations with the IMF are now being held to reach an agreement leading to a rescheduling of the unpaid installments and interest that are due for the period 1 July 1988 to 1990.

Dr Sidqi said that the government's strategy for increasing revenues is based on a number of policies, the most important of which is developing Egyptian exports through the policy of target exports, encouraging the establishment of projects that specialize in exports, and taking executive steps to establish government companies whose activities would be limited to insuring exports in order to encourage the Egyptian exporter.

The prime minister warned that if steps to increase production and to change the current trends of higher rates of consumption are not accelerated then the continuation of the food gap will have very damaging economic and social effects, in light of the successive increases in world prices of imports.

Regarding the present phenomenon of unemployment, the prime minister said that the government has taken several nontraditional comprehensive measures, including the implementation of programs for training the surplus graduates in skills required by the labor market, in addition to tourist development and land reclamation projects.

Touching on foreign policy, the prime minister said that the past year had seen a number of important achievements, the most prominent of which was the return of Tabah. He added that Egypt restored its relations with the Arab countries and resumed its membership in the Arab League, while President Husni Mubarak attended the Casablanca summit in May 1989. Dr Sidqi stressed that there are positive developments in Egyptian-(?Arab) relations which have taken great strides along the path of joint interests.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, he stressed Egypt's desire not to take any steps without first consulting and coordinating with the Palestinian leadership and the fraternal Arab countries. He referred to Egypt's constant support for all Arab issues. He said that Egypt stood and still stands with Iraq in its conflict with Iran. Egypt also supported the Arab tripartite committee's efforts on Lebanon, declared its backing for the al-Ta'if accord, and welcomed the election of President Ilyas al-Hirawi as a step toward Lebanese national accord.

Regarding the Arab Cooperation Council, he said that it was an expression of the intentions to maintain solidarity and coordination in order to reach the single aim; namely, economic integration. He added that the council is working within the framework of the Arab League and seeks to achieve its aims. He also reiterated Egypt's desire that its relations with all African countries be at their best level and be a translation of Egypt's loyalty in carrying the flag of the continent's problems, confronting its political and economic difficulties, and seeking peaceful solutions for Africa's regional problems. He

noted here that the African leaders unanimously elected President Mubarak to the chairmanship of the OAU at their meeting in June 1989.

Regarding relations with the Islamic countries, the prime minister underlined Egypt's desire to strengthen its relations with all members of the Islamic Conference Organization. As to the Nonaligned Movement, he noted Egypt's leading and constructive role in exercising its role within the movement's framework. He praised the initiative launched by Egypt, India, Senegal, and Venezuela—which were later joined by Yugoslavia—to set up a dialogue between North and South in order to reach appropriate solutions for the debts crisis. As to Europe, he said that Egypt is following current events and developments in East Europe very closely, as well as their effects on the balances and relations between the existing forces in the European Continent.

Regarding Egypt's relations with the two superpowers, Dr Sidqi said that Egypt's relations with the United States are based on mutual interests and are characterized by understanding and mutual respect. As to relations with the Soviet Union, he said that a tangible improvement has taken place in the past few years as a result of President Gorbachev's new policies. He stressed that Egypt always welcomes the policy of detente between the two superpowers because of its positive effects on regional problems, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the positive atmosphere it creates in the international sphere.

Zaki Badr on Asyut Incidents, Emergency Law

NC1412154589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1256 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr has asserted that extremist religious groups were behind the recent incidents in Asyut. A demonstration was staged with the aim of inciting the masses and clashing with the city's police force. He said that clashes did occur between the two sides, leaving 40 people, including 10 policemen, injured. The prosecution office interrogated 300 fundamentalists and handed down a verdict jailing 69 pending further interrogation.

During a meeting with the staff and students of the al-Sadat Academy for Administrative Sciences on the occasion of the completion of the computer training of 88 officers, Badr said that some demonstrators were found in possession of three pistols and a box containing Molotov cocktails, and that they were preparing to use them against the police forces.

Badr emphasized that the climate of democracy prevailing in Egypt in the era of President Husni Mubarak gives everyone the opportunity to express his views with absolute freedom. He pointed out that had it not been for this democracy, the voices of criticism would not have appeared in the opposition newspapers. He said that President Mubarak is eager to maintain democracy, which means freedom of speech but not freedom of subversion and anarchy.

In response to a student's question on the effect of the emergency law on the process of democracy, Badr said that the emergency law is not applied to honest citizens. This law, he said, is applicable to extremists, who exploit religion as a cover for disruption of the security of the homeland and citizens, to drug traffickers who seek to subvert the national economy to serve their personal interests, and to those who are guilty of serious matters like trading in people's staples and contaminated food.

Badr asserted that no one with particular political views or ideology has been detained, nor any paper confiscated, nor any writer prevented from writing in the era of President Mubarak, who constantly affirms that democracy and freedom of speech and of the opposition will continue.

Badr pointed out that emergency laws are applicable in Britain, France, the FRG, and several European countries, where they are called "anti-terrorist laws." These laws entitle an interior minister to search whole areas for arms and terrorist groups. He noted that these laws were applied in Britain after Prime Minister Thatcher escaped an attempt on her life. He stressed that such measures have not and will not be applied in Egypt, which enjoys security and stability that are admired by everyone. However, there are certain criminal phenomena that the police confront firmly, as happened in Sawhaj recently when the police eliminated the "Tomorrow Gang." This gang was notorious for terrorizing innocent people and reminded the people of the phenomenon of al-Khutt [a former assassin] in Upper Egypt in the forties. The leader of the gang was killed in the area between Abu-Tisht and Sawhaj and the rest of the gang members were arrested.

Badr said that freedom of expression in Egypt is guaranteed to everyone through the legal and recognized parties which express their views in their papers and groupings without any hindrance. He noted that illegal parties are rejected and mere affiliation with them is a crime.

Badr pointed out that the communist march is over throughout the world, as the recent events in the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, the GDR, and other countries in that region have shown. The communists in Egypt, however, insist on defending the communist system, he said. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Seeks Ties With Libya, Egypt

EA1312165789 Khartoum SUNA in English 0917 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Manama, 13 Dec (SUNA)—Sudan will join one of the Arab economic groupings, but it prefers to set up an organized coordination that will include Egypt and

Libya, said chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, RCC, General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. Al-Bashir described before a press conference here yesterday the Arab economic groupings as "positive steps" towards comprehensive Arab unity.

Al-Bashir Returns From Gulf Tour 13 Dec

EA1312184889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, Revolution Command Council chairman, returned to Khartoum this morning from Manama, after concluding his Gulf tour, which included the United Arab Emirites [UAE] and the State of Bahrain.

During his visit to Manama, Lt Gen al-Bashir held talks with Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifa, amir of the State of Bahrain, touching on Arab and international affairs of common interest.

Lt Gen al-Bashir announced that the tour was successful and achieved all its objectives. He said: We found the heads of those states responsive to the situation in Sudan. He announced the opening of an embassy for Sudan in the State of Bahrain soon.

Here is the statement given by his excellency following his return to the country:

[Begin al-Bashir recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our visits to the UAE and the State of Bahrain were, God be praised, successful. The visits achieved all our objectives, such as briefing the heads of these states on what is going on in Sudan. We discussed with them areas of joint cooperation between Sudan and the UAE and Sudan and the State of Bahrain. We found them responsive on all the matters we presented to them, and we reached understanding on issues of interest to the Arab states and international issues in general.

Engineer Abd-al-Mun'im has stayed behind in the UAE to sign an agreement. With regard to our expatriate brothers, we met them, God be praised, and they are happy and have rallied to the revolution, despite the fact that some distorted information was reaching them.

But now, God be praised, since the regular arrival of Sudanese newspapers, they have managed to get correct information. The distorted information did not have much affect on them.

With regard to the State of Bahrain, we agreed to the opening of an embassy there. God willing, it will be opened soon. There will also be an information office for the Gulf countries to reply to false reports circulating in those countries, and to explain the facts as they really are.

RCC Chairman Praises Zaire's Mobutu

EA1412111989 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0500 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] In Khartoum last Friday [8 December], Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council [RCC], hailed the part being played by Marshal Sese Seko Mobutu [words indistinct].

The Sudanese president also expressed his wish for the strengthening of cooperation in all fields between Zaire and his country. [words indistinct] this statement during an audience he gave to the secretary of state [as heard] for territorial security, citizen (Viende Bubu), who handed him a message from the Zairean head of state.

Diplomatic Conference Issues Resolutions

EA1312183489 Khartoum SUNA in English 0918 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Dec (SUNA)—The Sudanese diplomacy conference wound up sessions here Tuesday and issued its recommendations and resolutions. The recommendations called for the promotion of diplomacy performance and development of Sudan's relations with friendly countries.

Member of the Revolutionary Command Council, Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, who addressed the final session, said the revolution would adopt the recommendations of the conference, which dealt with issues of peace, economy and expatriates' affairs. "This conference is considered as supplementary to the march of expanding the base of popular participation," he added.

He reiterated the revolution's determination to put an end to the civil war in the south, saying the government had taken a [words indistinct] of procedures which, he added, were represented in allowing the delivery of relief supplies to the war-affected people in the south, declaring a general amnesty and cease-fire. Brig Hasan noted that the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] accepted the recommendations of the national dialogue conference, as they represent the consensus of the Sudanese people.

Committee for Rebel 'Returnees' Established

EA1412121389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and chairman of the Political Committee, has issued an order on the formation of a committee to take care of the affairs of returnees from the rebel movement, to be called: returnees' affairs committee.

This committee will be under the RCC Political Committee. The committee is as follows: Colonel Muhammad Sa'id Ahmad Nur, chairman; Dr Faruq Ahmad Abd-al-Ghaffar, member; Major al-Rayyih

Hasaballah Rahmah, member; Mr Hasan Ala al-Din, member; a representative of military intelligence, member; a representative of the Ministry of Labor and Social Insurance, member; and a representative of the returnees, member.

The committee's competence: The committee shall have competence in the following areas:
1. To receive the returnees from the rebel movement and to work for their return to normal life.
2. To coordinate official and popular information efforts. The committee can seek the assistance of anyone it regards as suitable for the discharge of its duties.

The committee's headquarters: The General Secretariat of the People's Hall shall equip a suitable headuarters at the People's Hall. A Secretariat will prepare the committee's reports and recommendations. The committee shall submit its reports and recommendations to the chairman of the political committee.

Al-Bashir Appoints Officials in Equatoria Region

EA1312171589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Dec 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister, has issued a decree appointing (Benjamin Wariali) and (Khamis Sandani Kroji) as deputies of the governor of Equatoria region.

The Lieutenant General also issued a decree appointing Brigadier Kamillo Odongi as commissioner of Eastern Equatoria, and Brigadier Dominic Dabi as commissioner of Western Equatoria.

Committee Set Up To Probe Al-Lagowa Incident

EA1412180789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] An investigative committee has been established to look into the recent fighting in al-Lagowa [southern Kurdufan].

An internal agreement steered by the commissioner of southern Kurdufan [as heard] is being worked out to iron out differences, and to solve the problem which arose between the Arabs and the Nubahs.

Flight Staff Brigadier Faysal Madani Mukhtar, Revolution Command Council member and political supervisor for Kurdufan region, said that the security situation was very good, especially after the fighting which broke out in al-Lagowa. He said the reason for this fighting was that some of John Garang's outlaws had attacked some cattle owners, just to cause trouble. That was why the Arabs and Nubahs fought in the area. Some of John Garang's forces had stepped up their destructive activities, causing discord, and creating trouble, and troops and police were sent to the area. He said security in the area was very good, and there were no problems.

General Command Denies Attack on Kenyans

EA1312203289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] In a statement today, the General Command of the People's Armed Forces refuted reports by some agencies that a relief convoy had been ambushed by the outlaws along the Kaya-Juba road, which resulted in the killing of 20 Kenyan drivers.

The General Command stressed that the report was completely untrue, and that the Kaya-Juba road is open and is being used by military and commercial convoys in a regular manner, without obstruction from any quarter. It said the aim behind the circulation of such false reports by interested quarters was to influence relief operations along this road.

General Command Statement on Rumbek Fighting

EA1412165889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] The Armed Forces General Command has released a statement to the people, saying that the outlaw forces attacked Rumbek on 8 November 1989, but were repulsed by our forces, who killed a number of them and seized their weapons.

On 11 November, the outlaws once more attacked our forces in Rumbek but were again repulsed by our forces, who killed 600 of them, and seized weapons. Among the dead were (Garang Det), Captain (Atok Riak) and First Lieutenant (Burak Majak).

Our forces seized the following weapons: 380 Kalashnikov rifles, 233 Kalashnikov rifle magazines, 4,455 Kalashnikov rounds of ammunition, 10 boxes of ammunition, 2,500 rounds of (Garanov) ammunition, two antitank shells, 11 RPG rockets, and 25 shells. Two of the outlaws surrendered to our forces with their weapons, and one was captured. Our forces lost 12 martyrs.

The commander of Rumbek garrison said their morale is high, and that there are no problems.

SPLA Negotiator Remarks on Nairobi 'Failure'

EA1312153789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Remarks to reporters by Lam Akol Ajawin, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army delegation to Nairobi talks; time and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] First of all, I should start by saying that this meeting for talks in Nairobi, in fact, is the second since the present government junta came to power in Khartoum. So it is in fact a continuation of an earlier meeting which we held in Addis Ababa between 19 and 20 August this year.

During that meeting we discussed the issues at stake and how to approach a solution. We had presented to the government delegation a four-point program on the way we think the problem in the Sudan should be solved. And we were given the impression, or we actually agreed with the government delegation, that they go back and study our viewpoint and when they were ready they would let us know their opinion so we cold meet again.

What happened is that as soon as the government delegation went to Khartoum, they organized their own conference, what they called the national dialogue conference in Khartoum, to advise them on how best to solve the Sudan problem. Of course, we do not object to that, they have the right to call their own internal conference. We also have our own internal conference. So if that was meant to contribute to the peace process, it was welcome. But it was our belief that as soon as they were through or were ready with what they call their proposals for a solution, they would contact us as agreed and we would hold another meeting.

The situation developed differently. Following the Khartoum meeting, government delegations visited all over the world to explain to different countries what they thought the solution should be. The conspicuous side which never received a copy of their document was, ironically, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA]. So it was in this context that President Carter, former U.S. president, came in. He met al-Bashir in Khartoum and suggested his willingness to see that a meeting be convened and they agreed upon a date. Carter then met Dr John Garang, leader of the movement, who also told him that we were actually waiting for this delegation and if the government was now ready for a meeting, we were ready also.

This is the background to this particular meeting. President Carter chaired the first session. Of course, it was made clear to him that the Sudanese had been talking alone all this time. Whereas we appreciate his efforts to bring us together, we feel that, at the moment, we do not see any room for a mediator in our discussion and that subsequent meetings should continue without the president and comprise only the Sudanese sides.

Having provided this brief background to the talks, I think it is also fair to go on to the substance of what we have discussed. First of all, we went to this meeting with a very clear objective. Our objective was that, since we had given the government ample time to study our proposals, which was actually more than 3 months, we were expecting them to come with concrete answers to the points we had suggested, and therefore it was in the back of our minds that as a result of those discussions and as a result of concrete answers to the four-point program we had presented, we were hoping that this meeting would come out with a document which would agree on the steps to be taken in order to reach a cease-fire. That was what we had in the back of our minds when we came to this meeting.

Well, things did develop differently. The meeting finished just a few minutes ago, and what developed was the following: First, it was clear that the government never studied our proposals and so came with no definite answers. Among the points we disagreed on were the points that we gave them in August and, hence, they said that they needed more time to go to the government in Khartoum for consultations. That is an important point to note.

Secondly, there is a real divergence in approaches to the issues at stake, approach in the sense that whereas the SPLM/SPLA thinks that in order to bring about a peaceful resolution to the country's problems you need the involvement of all the political parties and the trade unions in the country. This is an important premise because our experience in Sudan has shown us that partial solutions between government and rebel groups have never lasted. And that is why since 1985 the SPLM/SPLA has been talking of the involvement of all the political forces, trade unions, and the Army in the national constitutional conference.

The present military junta sees no role at all for any of the political parties. They think they are the legitimate representatives of all the Sudanese people and, therefore, they can speak for everyone else, and the SPLA speak for itself. So what they need is just an agreement between them and the SPLA. This is a very important point. This is why we could not agree on the formation of broad-based government, which is a very important requirement for peace.

Also, there is a divergence of opinion regarding the constitutional conference: Who will participate in that conference? Who is supposed to be represented? Our view is that the constitutional conference should involve everybody in Sudan because we are deciding the future of the country and, therefore, anybody who thinks he has a contribution to make must be represented. Again, the junta thinks that the conference is between us and them and it should be left to the two of us to decide on who else can be present. So this, like the first observation, leads to the obvious conclusion that an agreement that we would reach is bound to be a narrow-based agreement and therefore, unlikely to endure.

We know we have a wealth of experience behind us. We had cases where people met in 1947. There was not... [Ajawin changes thought] agreements that were reached, were not respected.

We met in 1954, when the parliament decided to pass independence. There was a proviso in the agreement that the requirements or the demands of the southerners for federation be considered, and so on. The Addis Ababa agreement, they said, people said, was an agreement between Numayri and the Anyanya, and therefore nobody was involved. [sentence as heard] The principle of democracy and the involvement of everyone is a very essential requirement to a lasting peace.

Also we notice that there is, again, much confusion over what should really lead to the (?peace) or to the cease-fire, so that we go to the constitutional conference, and what should be discussed in the conference itself. We thought that priority should be given to the issues which we think, if agreed upon, that will lead to a cease-fire because it is only after a cease-fire that you can have a national constitutional conference.

The junta's delegation does not think this way. This is why they have been trying to force us into discussing the document that they passed in Khartoum. We told them that this document is fine as an opinion of one particular group, but the best place to discuss it is a national constitutional conference where everyone can present his own view.

There are other documents like it, which were written before (?then). You had Ahmad Ibrahim (Zubeid); he also wrote a document as far back as 1986 on federalism. You had the Amba workshop resolutions which were discussed by a number of political groups including the SPLM/SPLA. These also will be presented to the conference. We have other papers that we will present to the conference, and therefore the place to discuss the junta's document is the national constitutional conference.

So, in view of this, we think it is important, first, to discuss the points which we believe are confidence-building measures. You know, we have a wealth of broken promises. It is a reality that there are at present two warring armies. In order to bring them into one place, you must, first of all, create an atmosphere where each side will feel confident that the conference is going to arrive at a lasting solution.

We notice that there has been no movement by the government side. There has been no serious study of what has been going on. But it did not really take long for us to see what the background is.

I think the meeting must have taken place at the wrong time, because it appears that the government tried to use these talks as a propaganda ploy in order to solve some of its internal problems. It was faced with a demonstration inside Khartoum and, therefore, rather than looking for a serious agreement with the SPLM/SPLA, tried to use the talks as a way of hitting the internal front which was obvious from a number of issues.

1. We had agreed that while the talks were still going on, nobody should give a statement or pronouncement on what was going on in the talks. We have kept our side, but we have been reading in papers, and you have also perhaps been seeing in papers, statements from the other side as to what has been going on in the conference. This is a clear sign that some messages were being sent.

2. Whereas we are talking peace seriously here, the leader of the junta goes on (?the air) in Khartoum and pronounces that he will wipe out the SPLA while the talks were going on in Nairobi. Such a statement at this particular time is very damaging and can never contribute to an atmosphere of discussion.

We know he said before that he was going to wipe out the SPLA before the end of the year. But now that talks are going on, and now that it is being said for the second time by someone who is a head of state and a general simultaneously, then people have to take him very seriously. You can never underrate somebody of that influence.

We also have been hearing statements on Radio Omdurman saying that we have agreed on a number of issues that were never agreed on in the conference. For example, they said we accepted their document which they called the report on the national dialogue conference, and that we accepted their proposals. This again is not true. As I just told you, we had agreed that this document is suitable to be presented to a national constitutional conference. So who tells the Radio Omdurman that we have agreed on this? It is definitely the government delegation, and therefore, we noticed that there is something meant to be served by these talks other than the noble objective which all of us came for, and that is to sign a document which will lead us to a permanent cease-fire. Of course, the junta leader's statement also contains a suggestion that whoever strikes in the country is collaborating with the SPLA.

In summary, I think this meeting has ended on a note that we did not expect. We thought that the other side came to talk peace very seriously. It turned out that their objectives were completely different. The failure of the conference is obvious. There is no movement on the question of Shariah law, which everyone knows is at the center of the conflict, and therefore, there must be something to be made out of it. They rejected this outright. There was no willingness to discuss the questions of emergency measures and military pacts in an atmosphere of compromise.

Commentary 'Rejects' Broad-Based Government

EA1112124689 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Lutuka 1120 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Hello listeners, if you followed the Nairobi peace talks keenly, you will know that al-Bashir's military government rejected the key points we presented to them. They said they could not scrap Shariah law. This, therefore, means imposing Sariah laws on all Sudanese citizens and enslaving them in the process.

The junta said that Sudanese political parties should not be involved in the struggle for peace. It suggested that the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] and the junta should form a broad-based government so as to oppress the Sudanese political parties. This kind of irresponsible talk, listeners, clearly tells us that al-Bashir

and his gang came to power for the sake of ruling the country, not to solve the problems that continue to face Sudan.

Listeners, you may rest assured that the SPLA did not go to the bush in order to rule the Sudanese people. The SPLA simply came to rectify some of the problems in the Sudan. The SPLA is fighting to liberate the Sudanese people from oppression, not to rule the country. We, therefore, reject the junta's idea of soldiers forming a broad-based government and oppressing the Sudanese politicians. How can a country progress without politicians in the government?

We in the SPLA will continue to fight until all the problems are solved, until we topple the government in Sudan. We are not afraid of 'Umar al-Bashir's daydreams that he can crush the SPLA. Nobody can crush the SPLA. A war of the oppressed masses cannot be crushed, because the strength of the SPLA is the strength of the oppressed Sudanese people.

Western Sahara

Polisario Official Vows To Continue Struggle

LD1712110489 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Fighting has been going on for several months now, while King Hassan II is hardening his attitude toward the Polisario Front. Is the Saharan independence movement considering revising its strategy? This is the question we asked Salem Ould Salek, member of the Polisario Political Bureau and Sarahan minister of education and teaching.

[Begin recording] [Salek] I would say no because, on one hand, we are working for peace, we are doing everything at the moment to ensure peace in our region through the application of the Western Sahara peace plan, and on the other hand, as long as Morocco refuses to cooperate with the United Nations and as long as it refuses to allow our people to express themselves freely on their fate, we will continue to fight on a military level.

What I am trying to say is that this last resolution which was voted by the United Nations is a world consensus. And for the first time the EEC has voted for such a resolution. This is very important. This resolution calls on Morocco and the Polisario Front to continue dialogue and to mandate the UN general secretary to organize a referendum which should be without administrative or military duress.

After the Marrakech meeting between King Hassan II and a Polisario Front delegation we have ordered 1 month of unilateral truce followed by a period of calm lasting 7 months. After that we unconditionally freed 200 Moroccan soldiers. Unfortunately, all these gestures of goodwill have been interpreted by Morocco as signs of weakness and fighting has resumed in the region with exceptional violence. The declaration by Hassan II and the Moroccan Government somewhat resembles a closed chapter. The king has just declared that he is prepared to fight for 100 years if need be. For our part, we are saying that the Saharan people will be independent. The race and the Saharan people are there to fight as long as it takes. [end recording]

Polisario Praises UN General Assembly Decision

LD1412215689 Algiers APS in English 1312 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] SDAR [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic] (liberated territories), 14 Dec (APS)—The Polisario Front expressed satisfaction Wednesday about the "consensus decided on December 11 by the UN General Assembly in order to put an end to the conflict in western sahara", and launched a call "to the international community to make pressure on Morroco in order to oblige it to abide by this consensus", a communique of the Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture announced.

"This consensus is the result of the flexibility (...) of the Saharan Government and the perseverance of the UN secretary general", the communique underlined, "shows the will of the international community to see the end of the conflict in conformity with the right of the Saharan people to self-determination and independence".

Bahrain

Saudi State Minister Delivers Message, Departs

JN1512174489 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Manama, Dec 15 (GNA)—Saudi State Minister and Member of the Cabinet Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif al-Milhim left Manama for home today after a short visit, during which he delivered a message to H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah from Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

The message dealt with the current situation in the region and issues related to the Gulf Cooperation Council States (GCC) in addition to relations between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Amir Leads Delegation to GCC Summit in Muscat

JN1812104889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 18 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, left Manama for Muscat at noon today to lead the Bahraini delegation to the meetings of the 10th Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit, which is due to begin in Oman today. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Shaykh Sabah Leaves for GCC Meeting in Oman

LD1712175389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1240 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 17 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and the delegation accompanying H.H. [his highness] the amir to the tenth GCC summit in Muscat left here this afternoon for Oman.

Shaykh Sabah is to head Kuwait's delegation to the GCC foreign ministers meeting which will finalize an agenda of the Gulf Cooperation Council summit.

The accompanying delegation includes State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid, Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah, Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi, Commerce and Industry Minister Faysal al-Khalid and a number of senior officials in the amiri diwan and the foreign and finance ministries.

A press delegation accompanying his highness left on board the same plane including board chairman and Director General of the Kuwait News Agency Bargis Hmud al-Bergis, head of the Kuwaiti Journalists Association Ahmad Yusuf Bihbahani, chief editors of local papers and an information team.

A number of Kuwaiti figures or their representatives left aboard the same plane for Muscat where they, along with similar numbers from other GCC countries, will be honored during that summit. Ten personalities were chosen from each of the six GCC states.

Shaykh Sabah was seen off by a number of ministers, Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and senior ministry officials.

PDRY

Presidium Hails Aden Unity Agreement

EA1412124389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] At the meeting of its 37th session, held yesterday evening [11 December] under the chairmanship of Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council saluted the historic Aden agreement, which shifted the unification process to the historic march charted out in the Cairo agreement of 1972. The Presidium stressed the importance of this agreement, which was concluded in an atmosphere of mutual trust between the leaders of the two parts, as well as the importance of the sincere efforts which made the achievement of the reunification of Yemen a cause of the people which must be realized. This had given the agreement both national and pan-Arab dimensions.

When the Presidium was reviewing the historic Aden agreement, Brother al-'Attas stressed that the Presidium had a great responsibility to realize all that had been agreed upon, particularly the preparations for referring the constitution of the unified state to the People's Council and the shura in the two parts. These were to hold a referendum on the constitution, and to follow up the work of the unification committees, to complete whatever work was left during the period already fixed. The Presidium also will have to study the work done by the committees in the past, along with working together with the brothers in the northern part of the homeland through the Higher Yemeni Council and the Ministerial Committee, to ratify what has been done by the committees. This will have to be referred to the organs concerned for implementation, with the intention of preparing for the realization of the great historic plan to regain the unification of our Yemeni homeland, territory, and people.

The Presidium emphasized the importance of the mass organizations and economic and social establishments working steadily with their counterparts in the northern part of the homeland, to prepare and create a democratic atmosphere, and to coordinate their work in such a manner as to ensure their merger on the way to the declaration of a unified Yemeni state.

The Presidium approved the reformation of the unification committees and the drafting of a timetable to complete whatever is left of their work during the defined period. It called on the various ministries, institutions, and organs to study the projects, laws, and regulations produced by the committees for the regulation of the political, economic, and social life of the unified state.

The Presidium expressed great appreciation for the level of communications and meetings between the leaders of the two parts of the homeland, and the Aden agreement, noting the probability of its implementation. It also expressed great appreciation for the outcome of the 18th extraordinary session of the Central Committee, and expressed its appreciation for the support of brothers and friends for the Aden unification agreement.

The Presidium emphasized the need for the various organs concerned to implement what had been agreed upon precisely, and to remove any difficulties obstructing the normal and free movement of Yemeni citizens between the governorates of the Yemeni homeland, to facilitate the movement of goods of Yemeni origin between the two parts of the homeland, and to cancel all taxation and customs measures on the basis of the unification agreements.

The Presidium called for a greater response to unification among the citizens and the masses, professional and creative organizations, and the various economic, social and cultural centers to deepen confidence and to create a democratic unifying atmosphere between officials and citizens, so as to move on to a unified state.

The Presidium discussed the subjects on its agenda, including the implementation of the decision of the Supreme People's Council concerning the improvement of supplies, health, and education as well as water services for the citizens in the desert strip. It entrusted the government to include these projects in next year's plan. It also discussed other subjects on its agenda.

North, South Yemeni Ministers on Joint Tour

EA1612124089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Brothers Salih 'Abdullah Muthanna, minister of transport, and Muhammad al-Khadam al-Wajih, minister of communications and transport and member of the permanent committee in the northern part of the homeland, left for Damascus today at the head of a joint delegation.

They are starting a tour to the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon, Sudan, Somalia, and Djibouti. They will brief the Arab brothers in these countries on the unionist steps achieved by the two parts of the Yemeni homeland, which were crowned by the historic Aden accord on 30 November 1989, when the leaderships of the two parts signed the constitution of the united state.

Council of Ministers Reviews Press Law

EA1412124789 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers concluded its regular meeting at noon today under the chairmanship of Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, after it had completed discussion of the issues on its agenda.

At its morning session, the council discussed the press and publications draft law, which aims to guarantee the right of the Yemeni citizen to freedom of thought and expression through the press or various other mass media, and confirm the freedom of citizens and their dignity. It also is aimed at encouraging Yemeni national culture and protecting the national and pan-Arab legacy and the unity of the Yemeni people and the national achievements of the 26th September and 14th October glorious revolutions.

The draft law regulates the issuing of newspapers and publications by persons and party, mass, creative and professional organizations, the printing and publishing of them, and their circulation. It also is designed to strengthen the role of Yemeni information as part of Arab information in a bid to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation. It also regulates work with the press. The draft explained the rights and duties of pressmen and the legal protection of their activity. The draft also comprised legal (?articles) that regulate the process of issuing newspapers, as well as the display and circulation of artistic literary works. Other issues and provisions also regulate the activity of the press in our country.

In light of its elaborate discussion of the draft law, the council expressed a number of observations for developing the draft law. It stressed the considerable importance of this law within the scope of the practical application of the political and economic reform program, and spreading democracy in the life of society.

The council calls on Yemeni pressmen throughout the homeland to raise their work to the level of the national tasks facing the mass media, and the cultural challenges facing the people and the homeland, and to make an active contribution to discussion of the draft law to enrich it with valuable observations and opinions. In this connection, the Council of Ministers entrusted the minister of culture and information, the minister of justice, and the director general of the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers with redrafting the press and publications draft law in light of the observations made by members of the council, and with submitting it to the Supreme People's Council.

The Council of Ministers also discussed a report of the committee formed in accordance with Decree No. 139 of 1989 of the Council of Ministers, concerning the implementation program of the Political Bureau's decision on investment in housing.

In its report, the committee pointed out that its activity had focused on the examination of civil law and the law on housing and the transfer of house ownership, on making the necessary amendments to these laws, and on preparing the necessary regulations for implementing the Political Bureau's decision on housing.

During the council's discussion of the results of the committee's work and the amendments proposed by it to the aforesaid laws, the council approved the draft law for the transfer of ownership of properties for the purposes of sale and leasing, and regulating the relationship between owner and tenant. It also approved the draft law for amending the civil law. The Council of Ministers entrusted the minister of installations and housing, in coordination with the heads of executive bureaus, with implementing these measures, after the Presidium's and the Supreme People's Council's ratification of the legal amendments.

Finance Minister on Trade Measures With North

EA1412150489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Dr Ahmad Nasir al-Danani, member of the Central Committee and minister of finance, has asked all employees at customs stations to implement the exemption from taxes and customs duties, the facilitation of goods traffic, and the removal of all obstacles hindering the movement of citizens between the two parts of the homeland.

The ADEN NEWS AGENCY has learned that, in this connection, a number of concerned ministers will go down to the Karish area [on the border with the Yemen Arab Republic] next Sunday [17 December] to check on the progress of the implementation of the decision to abolish taxes and customs duties, and remove all obstacles to the movement of goods of Yemeni origin between the two parts.

The brother minister of finance pointed out that at its meeting convened from 12 to 13 December, on the basis of the decision of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee issued at its 18th extraordinary session, the Council of Ministers entrusted the minister of finance and the ministers concerned with adopting measures to remove all measures impeding the movement of goods of Yemeni origin, including the abolition of taxes and customs duties.

He explained that the Council of Ministers had entrusted the minister of industry, trade, and supply with adopting the necessary measures with the brothers in the northern part to remove any obstacles. These measures include the possible abolishment of import and export licences for products of Yemeni origin. Such a move will be discussed during the minister's attendance at the meetings of the economic committee which will begin its work on Saturday, 16 December, in Sanaa.

Defense Committee Head Meets Cuban Ambassador

EA1212213789 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] Brother 'Umar 'Abd-al-Samad, member of the Central Committee and chief of the national command of the organization of the People's Defense Committees, met at his office this morning socialist Cuba's ambassador to Aden.

During the meeting there was a discussion of methods to strengthen and develop militant relations between the two friendly parties and peoples and the possibility of entrenching the militant relations between the organization of the People's Defense Committees in our country and the organization of Committees for the Defense of the Revolution in Cuba.

Brother 'Umar 'Abd-al-Samad also briefed the Cuban ambassador on the resolutions of the Central Committee passed at its recent extraordinary session relating to the unification issue of the two parts of Yemen.

Qatar

Amir Leaves for 10th GCC Summit in Muscat

JN1812094089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0855 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Doha, 18 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, left Doha for Oman today leading the Qatari delegation to the meetings of the 10th Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit to begin in Muscat later today. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

New Adviser to King Fahd Appointed by Decree

LD1712222389 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Excerpt] A royal decree issued today appointed His Excellency Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Muhammad Ibn-Ibrahim al-Shaykh as an adviser in the Royal Court with the rank of minister. [Passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Saudi Envoy, Fahd's Message

JN1712110689 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a written message from his brother King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, within the framework of the bilateral contacts and consultations held by the two leaders. The message deals with issues concerning

advancing the march of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and enhancing inter-Gulf solidarity and joint action.

The message was conveyed by Dr 'Abd-al-Latif Milhim, Saudi minister of state and envoy of the Saudi monarch, during a meeting the UAE president had with the Saudi minister at the presidential Rawdat al-Rif resthouse at noon today.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier General Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense; Shaykh Ahmad Ibn-Hamid, minister of information and culture; Muhammad Khalifah al-Kindi, minister of public works and housing; and 'Abdallah al-'Ubayd, acting Saudi charge d'affaires to the UAE.

Shaykh Zayid Leaves for GCC Summit in Muscat

JN1812101589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0955 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 18 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], left Abu Dhabi for Muscat leading the UAE delegation to the meetings of the 10th Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] summit, which is due to begin in the Omani capital today. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Delegations Depart Sanaa, Aden With Messages

JN1512195089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Brothers Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of telecommunications and member of the Standing Committee in the northern part of the homeland, and Salih 'Abdallah Muthana, minister of transport in our southern part of the homeland, left today for Damascus. The two are leading a joint delegation on a tour that will take them to the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon, Sudan, Somalia, and Djibouti. The purpose of the tour is to brief the fraternal Arab leaders in these countries on the unity steps taken by the two parts of the Yemeni homeland, steps that were crowned by the 30 November historic agreement between the leaderships of the two parts, and the signing of the constitution of the state of unity.

Meanwhile, another joint Yemeni delegation left Aden this morning led by Brothers Ammad Muhammad Luqman, minister of labor and social affairs and member of the Standing Committee, and Muhammad Ahmad Salman, minister of housing and building in the southern part of the homeland on a tour of the sisterly Arab Maghreb states. The purpose of the tour is to explain the historic Aden unity agreement between the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland. This agreement is intended to reunify the Yemeni homeland.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, the two brother ministers said they were carrying messages from the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland to the leaders of the fraternal Arab Maghreb states. They will also explain the scope of the Aden agreement and its great national and pan-Arab significance.

Last night, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, PDRY Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee secretary general received the brother ministers of social affairs, labor, and health in the northern part, and ministers of housing, building, and fisheries in the southern part. Al-Bid said that Yemeni unity is meant to restore the people's unity, eliminate the tragedies and sufferings of the past, and improve the living standards of the Yemeni people. It will be a stabilizing factor in Yemen. Al-Bid pointed out that Yemeni unity is a step on the road to overall Arab unity.

In addition, a joint delegation of the two parts of the homeland left Aden this morning led by Brothers Dr Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil, minister of health in the northern part of the homeland, and Salim Muhammad Jibran, Political Bureau candidate member and minister of fisheries in the southern part of the homeland, on a visit to the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council to explain the historic Aden unity agreement between the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, the two brother ministers explained that the delegation will deliver messages from brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland, on the historic unionist Aden agreement, and the reunification of Yemen—the noble objective of our Yemeni people and their foundation for a good and prosperous life. The two ministers said that they would inform the leaders of these sisterly states of the important unity developments and steps that the whole Yemeni arena will witness in the near future in implementation of the historic unity agreement and in proclaiming the state of unity in accordance with the date already fixed.

South Yemeni Minister Arrives for Joint Meeting

JN1612200889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman, minister of industry, trade, and supply in the southern part of the homeland, arrived in Sanaa today to attend the meetings of the Joint Financial Consultative Committee of the two parts of the homeland. The committee will begin its work tomorrow morning. In a statement to the SABA' news agency, Brother 'Uthman expressed his pleasure at attending the committee meetings, which open in the wake of the steps toward unity taken by the two parts, noting that a number of economic issues will be discussed in the fields of agriculture, industry, and trade. 'Uthman affirmed that the committee will complete its mission within the next 2 months. [passage omitted]

Salih Receives Sudanese Envoy's Congratulations

JN1612141189 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office today Colonel Salah-al-Din Muhammad Karrar, member of Sudan's National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and head of the Economic Committee, who conveyed to the brother commander and secretary general greetings and congratulations from his brother NSRCC Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir on the unity steps that have been achieved on the road to the reunification of the Yemeni homeland. Col Karrar also informed the brother president of the economic policy sisterly Sudan is pursuing.

During the meeting, ties of cooperation between the two fraternal countries were discussed. Attending the meeting were Brother Yahya al-Mutawakkil, director of the National Charter Office, member of the Consultative Council, and member of the Standing Committee; and Muhammad Shahir Hasan, member of the Standing Committee.

Mauritanian Minister Meets With Officials

Delivers Message to Salih

JN1612142889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office this morning Brother Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. During the meeting, the Mauritanian minister conveyed to the brother president a message from his brother Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Council of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, connected with the Mauritanian-Senegalese dispute and fraternal bilateral relations and means of promoting them.

Attending the meeting was Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee.

Confers With Foreign Minister

JN1612151289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, today received Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Brotherly bilateral relations and means of bolstering them were discussed during the meeting as well as developments on the Yemeni, regional, and international arenas. Attending the meeting were brothers 'Ali Ahmad al-Khadr, deputy foreign minister, and Yahya 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Iryani, director general of the Arab and Islamic Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Salih Receives Libyan Official 16 Dec

JN1612144289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office this morning Brother Hamid Jallud, assistant secretary general of the general congress of producers in the People's Socialist Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Jallud conveyed to the brother president the Libyan workers' warm congratulations on the advanced unionist achievement on the road to restoring Yemeni unity. Jallud stated that this unionist measure is considered a pioneering move to achieve the people's cherished goal of Yemeni unity, and is a step on the path of comprehensive Arab unity.

Message From Mubarak Conveyed to President

JN1612192689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has received a written message from his brother His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The message dealt with brotherly bilateral relations and ways of promoting them. Mubarak also congratulated the president on the steps that have been taken to restore Yemeni unity. The message explained the stages through which the peace efforts have gone in terms of the Palestinian issue's developments. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak expressed his appreciation of the aims of the brother president and his efforts to revive the march of [words indistinct]. Mubarak also discussed the results of contacts that were made recently with the various parties to prepare for launching the peace process in the region.

Morocco's King Hassan II Sends Message to Salih

JN1712094289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Brother leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, secretary general of the General People's Congress, and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has received a written message from his brother King Hassan II of Morocco. The message deals with the fraternal bilateral ties, ways to develop them, and the latest developments on the Arab and international scenes, particularly those pertaining to the resumption of the Arab-European dialogue this month.

Paper Cited on Syrian-U.S.-Israeli 'Alliance'

JN1712110489 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 17, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad said that the United States and the Syrian regime agreed on dividing Lebanon and the whole region.

In its article published here today, the paper added that the United States is responsible for triggering the Lebanese crisis through two basic supporters in the region namely: Hafiz al-Asad regime and the Zionist entity.

The paper clarified that the U.S has been building political pressures on any state or parties calling for finding a comprehensive solution to the Lebanese crisis.

the paper pointed out that the U.S. did not oppose during the past years the Iranian military presence in Lebanon despite the Iranian scandalous role in the operations of kidnapping and international terrorism.

The paper concluded its article by saying that responsibility of confronting the sinister alliance among the United States, Hafiz al-Asad regime and the Zionist entity was the Arab nation's responsibility and Lebanon was in urgent need for help and support to save it from its current plight.

Ben Ali Heads Tunisian Delegation Visit 16 Dec

JN1612182389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the fraternal Republic of Tunisia arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of an official delegation on a several-day official visit to Iraq. The Tunisian president was accorded an official welcome. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn headed those who welcomed Ben Ali at the airport.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn hugged his brother President Ben Ali at the ramp of the Tunisian president's special plane, welcoming him and congratulating him on his safe arrival. His excellency the president then shook hands with the delegation members accompanying the Tunisian president. The Tunisian president afterward shook hands with the senior officials who were on hand to welcome him: Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president; and Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister. The Tunisian president also shook hands with Tahir Muhammad Hassun, minister of housing and reconstruction and head of the escort mission accompanying the guest president. [passage omitted]

The delegation accompanying President Ben Ali comprises Abdelhamid Escheikh, minister of foreign affairs; Abdallah Kallel, minister of national defense; and Moncef Belaid, minister of national economy.

Delivers Arrival Statement

JN1612204589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has expressed pleasure at his presence in Iraq, his second home, the land of glories and feats of heroism, and the lands of sacrifices.

In a press statement made upon arrival in Baghdad today at the beginning of an official visit, President Ben Ali said: This visit, which comes at the invitation of my brother President Saddam Husayn, crowns the excellent relations existing between our two fraternal states. This visit also will give me the chance to acquaint myself with Iraq's development march, which was strengthened and bolstered by the steadfastness on the warfront, thanks to its wise, shrewd, and farsighted leadership.

The Tunisian president added: We will discuss issues of common interest. We also will review bilateral cooperation and ways to develop and enhance it. Besides, my meeting with my brother President Saddam Husayn will be a precious opportunity for consultations on the major issues that interest the Arab nation, particularly considering we appreciate Iraqi efforts to bring about security, peace, and stability in the region. We wish the fraternal Iraqi people progress and invincibility.

Official Talks Begin

JN1612202189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—A round of official talks was conducted this evening between the delegations of the two fraternal states, the Republic of Iraq and the Republic of Tunisia. His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn led the Iraqi side to the talks, while the fraternal Republic of Tunisia was led by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The two sides reviewed the strong fraternal bilateral ties and ways to develop them in various spheres. They also discussed implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and Iraq's initiatives to secure that implementation. The Tunisian side affirmed Tunisia's support for Iraq's position. Iraq is eager to see security and peace prevail in the region. The Tunisian side also affirmed its commitment to the Casablanca summit resolutions. The two sides also touched on Arab developments, foremost among which are the Palestine question and Arab solidarity.

His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn expressed his appreciation and that of the Iraqi people for the fraternal stands taken by Tunisia in support of Iraq during its defense of the eastern flank of the Arab homeland.

The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy foreign minister; and Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC

member and deputy prime minister. The meeting also was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, defense minister; Tahir Muhammad Hassun, minister of housing and reconstruction and head of the escort mission accompanying the guest president; Samal Majid Faraj, planning minister; and the Iraqi ambassador to fraternal Tunisia. As for the Tunisian side to the talks, it comprised Abdelhamid Escheikh, minister of foreign affairs; Abdallah Kallel, minister of national defense; Moncef Belaid, minister of national economy; and the ambassador of fraternal Tunisia in Baghdad.

President Husayn hosted a great dinner banquet in honor of his brother President Ben Ali. The banquet was attended by Vice RCC Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, members of the two sides to the talks, RCC members, cabinet ministers, and senior state officials.

Industry Minister Meets Kallel

JN1712185889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, received here this evening Abdallah Kallel, Tunisian minister of national defense. During the meeting they discussed the distinguished cooperation between the two fraternal countries. The guest minister praised Iraq's leading experience in the field of military industries, stressing that it is in the Arab nation's interest.

Planning Minister Meets Belaid

JN1712122889 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec.17, INA—Mr. Samal Majied Faraj, acting minister of of trade and minister of planning met here today with Tunisian Minister of Economy Mr. Moncef Belaid..

During the meeting bilateral trade and economic relations, means of developing them and aspects of future expansion to serve mutual interests were reviewed.

The two parties also agreed on holding the new session of the Iraqi-Tunisian Joint Committee for Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation next April.

The Tunisian minister arrived here last night as member of the delegation accompanying Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Press, INA Editor Comment

JN1712122089 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 17, INA—Iraqi papers today welcomed the current visit to Iraq by Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and said that results of this visit would have positive impact on cementing brotherly ties, cooperation and solidarity.

An editorial by AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad said here today the visit of President Ben Ali comes within Arab and international circumstances that are witnessing swift changes in the scientific economic and political fields which require from Arab brethren an exchange of views and clear understanding on means of boosting Arab will and capability. These changes also require reaching sound outlook and work for upgrading the national confrontation.

It added that the visit of President Ben Ali would be positive on the level of boosting Arab issues of destiny leading among which realizing lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran, the Palestine issue and the Lebanese crisis. It pointed out that Tunisia maintained clear national stances in various fields of joint Arab action especially its attitude during the Arab 7-member committee which was set up during the first months of Iraq's defensive war against the Iranian aggression and also for its hosting the Arab League, the Palestine Liberation Organization and several other Arab specialized committees.

The daily said that Iraq blesses endeavour of Presidents Husayn and Ben Ali for serving the one Arab people in Iraq and Tunisia and other countries of the Arab nation.

AL-QADISIYAH paper of Baghdad described relations between Iraq and Tunisia as cordial and firm.

In its article published today, the paper expressed confidence that the Tunisian president's visit to Iraq would constitute an important qualitative shift and a start of new stage in the course of bilateral relations..

The paper lauded the firm and brave stances adopted by Tunisia towards Iraq during the wartime and confirmed that Tunisia's policies and attitudes at the national level were characterized with clarity and abidance by Arab issues and the Arab nation's supreme interests.

The paper said that policies pursued by Tunisia had contributed to achieving a comprehensive and tangible development at various economic, social and cultural levels.

Arab Affairs editor at the Iraqi News Agency—INA—said Iraqi-Tunisian relations witnessed big leaps during the past two years represented in joint cooperation and activities that confirmed desire of the two countries leaderships to gear up the wheel of this cooperation.

Iraq and Tunisia in June last year concluded three agreements for economic, trade and industrial cooperation and agreed to raise the volume of trade exchange to 50-million dollars annually. The bilateral agreements provided for extending facilities for the imported commodities between the two countries and the exchange of raw materials necessary for industry and cooperating in the field of industrializing semi-manufactured materials in addition to the exchange of expertise in the agricultural and industrial fields.

The editor said the current visit of President Ben Ali represents solidity of bilateral relations and desire of the Iraqi and Tunisian leaderships to expand spheres of joint cooperation and unification of Arab stances vis-a-vis Arab issues of destiny leading among which the Palestine issue and support of the Palestinian uprising against Zionist occupation oppression. [sentence as received]

Iraqi, ICRC Officials Discuss POW Swap

JN1712155589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—Iraqi officials and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] currently are conducting official talks at the Foreign Ministry in an attempt to find a comprehensive solution to the issue of the prisoners of the Iraq-Iran war.

An official source told INA that Iraq currently is studying proposals offered by the Iranian side through Kinadinger [name as received], assistant to the president of the ICRC, regarding possibly exchanging wounded and sick prisoners of war [POW's] between Iraq and Iran. The source explained this could be achieved if Iraq and Iran reached a formal agreement. He also pointed out that current talks with the assistant to the ICRC president center on the need to swap all the POW's between Iraq and Iran, including the sick and wounded, in accordance with provisions of Article 118 of the 1949 Geneva Declaration on the POW's.

The source reiterated Iraq's full readiness to exchange all POW's with Iran, regardless of results of current negotiations between the two countries.

In his statement, the source added that during the talks, Iraq requested the assistant to the ICRC president conduct discussions with the Iranian side to allow an ICRC official to visit the Iraqi POW's in Iran to ensure they are well treated, as is the case with the Iranian POW's in Iraq.

The assistant to the ICRC president arrived in Baghdad last Thursday.

Paper Rejects Iranian POW Exchange Conditions

JN1712123589 Baghdad INA in English 1155 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 17, INA—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER today said that in demanding that an Iraqi troop withdrawal should take place in return for agreeing to a POW [prisoners of war] swap, Iran is just using the POW's as hostages to wrest illegitimate political concessions. In other words, Iran is demanding reason [as received] for the hostages it is keeping.

A paper commentary here added, but POW's cannot be part of a political deal. They are governed by internationally recognised treaties, namely the Third Geneva Convention which stipulates that a POW's exchange ought to take place immediately after active hostilities are halted.

But since August 8, 1988 when Iran was forced to accept a ceasefire and direct talks, no progress has been made in the efforts to implement Resolution 598.

The paper added that POW's agony is the top urgent legacy of the Gulf war because it concerns humans who have suffered so much by spending so many years, some more than eight years in captivity. Tens of thousands of Iraqi and Iranian prisoners of war could have been relieved if their case had been dealt with independently from Resolution 598.

Iraq has repeatedly said that the presence of Iraqi troops in some bits and pieces of Iranian land can by no means be viewed as occupation. After chasing the Iranians out of Iraqi land, Iraqi troops pulled out of huge areas of Iranian land to the Iraqi borders. When the Gulf war ceasefire came into force, some Iraqi troops found themselves in some enclaves of Iranian territory which are too trivial to deem as an infringement on Iranian territory. Some Iraqi troops remained in these tiny pockets under the circumstances of the ceasefire. Such areas of land were not targets for Iraqi offensives as was the case with Iranian offensives over eight years of war.

Now that UN Resolution 598 has failed to at least end the plight of POW's, let the Geneva Convention be a way out of their plight, and all political issues be left to be tackled with the framework of Resolution 598.

Arab League's Ibrahimi Confers With 'Aziz

JN1712183089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Lakhdar Ibrahimi, special envoy of the tripartite Arab committee entrusted to deal with the Lebanese crisis. During the meeting they discussed the latest developments in Lebanon, as well as the results of the committee's tour of foreign capitals. The meeting was attended by the head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi, Algerian, and Moroccan ambassadors in Baghdad.

Departs for Tunis

JN1712190789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA)—Lakhdar Ibrahimi, special envoy of the tripartite Arab committee on the Lebanese crisis, left Baghdad for Tunis this evening. During his visit to Baghdad, Ibrahimi briefed Iraqi officials on the results of the recent trip of the members of the tripartite committee to Europe.

Shamir Discharged From Hospital, Returns Home

TA1712071789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Our correspondent Rina Matzli'ah reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was discharged from the hospital this morning and returned home. This evening Mr Shamir will host French Prime Minister Michel Rocard in his private residence.

French Prime Minister Makes 'Private Visit'

Arrives 17 Dec; Met by Levi

TA1712175589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] French Prime Minister Michel Rocard arrived in Israel this afternoon on a private visit. He was met at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi.

Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Rocard will meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening and with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres tomorrow.

Offers France's 'Services'

TA1712204889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] French Prime Minister Michel Rocard has offered the services of his country in furthering negotiations in the Middle East.

In an exclusive interview with our correspondent (Danielle Krigel) from the French department, Rocard said that the immobility that has enveloped the political process must be broken urgently. He offered the services of France in what he termed trusted and friendly diplomacy, if the relevant parties in the region would be interested. Rocard recounted the long-standing friendship between France and Israel.

Upon his arrival this evening, the French statesman met with Minister Peres at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, and then went to the prime minister's residence for dinner. Tomorrow he is expected to meet with additional officials as well as with notables from the territories.

Meets With Shamir, Peres

TA1812060589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] French Premier Michel Rocard says France is prepared to help in the search for a Middle East peace settlement. Speaking at a dinner given in his honor by Prime Minister Shamir last night, Rocard said he was offering diplomacy of trust and friendship. On another issue, the French premier promised that the unification of Europe through the Common Market would not harm Israel or any other state, and they would continue to enjoy all the rights and advantages afforded by the current agreements. Rocard said Europe was closely watching Middle East developments. Israel, he said, should not be concerned about the Arab-European dialogue to be held soon in Paris.

Prime Minister Shamir, on the first evening home after his operation last week, said at the dinner that Israel had learned over the years to be patient and to achieve its objectives step by step.

Earlier, the French prime minister conferred with Deputy Premier David Levi and Vice Premier Shim'on Peres. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Peres if France is less cool toward the Israeli peace initiative than it was in the past.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I think that Mr Rocard, very much like myself, feels that time is becoming extremely important—the time element—that we have to move decisively and quickly toward a peace decision, and I hope this will happen.

[Katzenell] The French were very enthusiastic about the idea of an international conference as they understood it, rather than as Israel did. Is there any change in their position? Are they more open towards the present official Israeli Government position?

[Peres] We did not discuss this issue either. It was not mentioned because we are already in the midst of a process, and there is no sense to return to the beginning. Mr Rocard has asked, and I have explained to him, the different steps that we are taking, the different steps that we have to take, and there is no sense to go backward.

[Katzenell] Do you think France has a role to play in the Middle East process?

[Peres] Yes, surely. I think France can be of importance in helping to create the right climate and understandings necessary between the different parties, the necessary ties between the Common Market and the Middle East, particularly when the Middle East, like the rest of the world, is becoming aware of the fact that the economy nowadays is more important than strategy. [end recording]

Later today Premier Rocard is due to see Foreign Minister Arens and will have a meeting with Palestinian representatives. He will also participate in the ceremony naming a Tel Aviv street after former French Premier Pierre Mendes-France.

Holds Talks With Palestinians

TA1812083289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] French Prime Minister Michel Rocard today conferred with 13 Palestinians from East Jerusalem and the territories at the French Consulate in West Jerusalem. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association, said that they discussed the peace process. The Palestinians said they expect France to play a greater role in advancing the political process. On Palestinian representation in the talks with Israel, the Palestinians

stressed that the PLO must be a full partner in the peace process. In view of this, the Palestinians maintain that the inhabitants of the territories cannot represent themselves unless the PLO appoints them.

Our correspondent Arye Gus points out that only PLO supporters took part in the meeting, while the Islamic factions were absent. Among those who took part were Faysal al-Husayni, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Hanna Sinyurah, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and Fayiz Abu-Rahmah.

U.S. Reportedly Offers 2 Guarantees for Talks

TA1612195389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] The United States is willing to give Israel guarantees on two issues: The first is that Israel will not have to negotiate with the PLO; and the second says that the elections in the territories will be the central, though not the only, issue on the agenda of the discussions to be held with the Palestinians in Cairo. This was reported by our political correspondent Yig'al Goren.

Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein will leave tonight for Washington for talks on the guarantees Israel has requested following its acceptance of Baker's initiative. The Cabinet secretary will meet with assistants to the U.S. secretary of state and probably with James Baker himself.

The Prime Minister's Office and the Alignment's top echelons believe that, in any event, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will attend the tripartite foreign ministers' meeting in Washington next month.

Arab sources from East Jerusalem this evening disclosed that one of the proposals now being discussed by the United States, Egypt, and Israel is related to the issue of the composition of the Palestinian delegation. According to the proposal, each of the three countries will compile a list of 30 Palestinians that it is proposing for the Palestinian delegation that will discuss the issue of elections in the territories with Israel. The sources told our correspondent, Victor Nahmias, that the names that will appear on all the lists will be the nucleus of the delegation.

U.S., FRG To Supply New Submarines, Missiles

JN1612211289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 14 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that a tripartite agreement will be signed soon among the United States, the FRG, and Israel whereby Bonn will supply Israel with two new offensive submarines of the Dolphin type at a cost of $550 million. Washington will finance the deal in full. The two submarines will be built in the United States in accordance with an official license from the FRG Government.

AL-ITTIHAD also learned that the two submarines that Israel will receive during 1992-1993 are within the framework of the strategic cooperation program between Israel and the United States to build the Israeli Naval Force. The program costs $3 billion and includes supplying the Israeli enemy with three missile-support ships of the Sagar-5 type, which are currently being built in the ship-building yards in Haifa, in addition to miscellaneous naval arms and equipment, including surface-to-surface anti-ship Gabriel III missiles, surface-to-air anti-aircraft Barak missiles, and reconnaissance helicopters for the purpose of monitoring ships and submarines.

GDR Officials Discuss Restoration of Ties

Modrow Calls for Discussions

TA1712072989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Dec 89 p 1

["Exclusive" report by correspondent in Europe Daniyel Dagan]

[Excerpt] East Berlin— "We have officially addressed Israel with a request to discuss the establishment of diplomatic relations. My government is interested in such relations, and I hope that Jerusalem's response will be positive." These remarks were made yesterday by GDR State Council Chairman Hans Modrow in an exclusive interview with HA'ARETZ.

Answering a question on whether the GDR will be willing to pay reparations to Jewish survivors of the Holocaust, Modrow said: "We are definitely willing to discuss the issue with representatives of the relevant Jewish organizations and representatives from Israel. My government is open for discussions on the issue. It is an inseparable part of the main issues we have to deal with."

Modrow refused to state figures, saying this will be a matter for negotiations.

Modrow noted earlier statements made by GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer on a possible advance in relations with Israel. When told these were merely press releases and not an address through official channels, Modrow emphasized: "We have made a direct appeal to Israel as well. I hope the reply will be positive."

Egon Krenz, who was recently deposed from his duty as the Socialist Unity Party [SED] secretary general after briefly serving as head of state, told HA'ARETZ yesterday: "When I was head of state there were developments on this issue. We have made it clear to Israel that we wish to improve relations with it. The GDR has changed its position on the issue of reparations, and is now willing to discuss the issue with representatives of Jewish organizations."

In reply to a question as to why the GDR has for many years evinced such a hostile position regarding Israel, Krenz said: "I do not wish to go into details, but everything

has a past. You must be aware of the fact that we have very tight relations with Palestinian organizations."

Kurt Hager, a former Politburo member and chief SED ideologist, said on the same issue: "I must explain that we have always been under serious Arab pressure. We have maintained particularly close relations with the Palestinians, and today as well we oppose Israeli policy in the occupied territories. As for reparations, one must remember that we have paid large sums to the USSR and Poland. It is impossible to compare our situation with that of the FRG."

Hager, who no longer holds any position in the SED, was invited to the party's special convention as a guest deputy. Speaking to HA'ARETZ, Hager expressed regret for the hostile attitude his country has maintained toward Israel for many years. He added, however, that "there have been certain improvements in the past 2 years," such as cultural exchange. Finally, he said: "Our major cause for concern has been fear of Arab reaction."

Gid'on Alon reports: "Israel has so far not received any official appeal from the GDR Government concerning its willingness to establish diplomatic ties with Israel," Foreign Ministry officials said last night in response to the GDR State Council chairman's declaration that he has appealed to Israel on the matter.

Political sources last night stressed that Israel will not rush to reestablish ties with the GDR, even if its heads do officially express such willingness. Israel will bide its time because the GDR must first admit its responsibility for the Holocaust and Nazi crimes, and settle the issues of reparations for victims of the Nazis. [passage omitted]

Gysi Reviews Current Situation

TA1712081589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Dec 89 pp 1, 6

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Gregor Gysi, new chief of the GDR Socialist Unity Party—SED—by Daniyel Dagan in East Berlin; date not given]

[Text] East Berlin—Gregor Gysi, the new SED chief, has given an interview to HA'ARETZ while his party is holding a special convention devoted to incisive criticism of and the settling of accounts with the former leadership and its corruption. Immediately upon being elected to head the party, Gysi declared his desire to eliminate the remnants of the Stalinist structure of the party and drastically change it in all aspects.

[Dagan] Are you pleased with the proceedings of the convention?

[Gysi] We have taken the right track. We have incisively reviewed past events, and have been dealing more with future issues, such as how to pull the GDR out of the crisis it is in. We will approach the public with a good and clear plan, and fight for every vote. Nothing here will be taken for granted anymore.

[Dagan] You are an East German citizen. You have defined yourself as a communist influenced by a socialist and democratic heritage. Do you feel in any way affiliated with Judaism?

[Gysi] My father's grandmother was Jewish, as was my mother's great-grandfather. I cannot and do not want to measure the extent to which I am a Jew. Should I use the Nazi racial standards? Naturally, I feel close to Jewish issues. I have acted, and will continue to act, for the development of the Jewish community here. I would like this country to become a center for Jewish intellectuals again. In this respect we have a wide gap to cover. It takes a lot of patience, work, and, of course, the right attitude.

[Dagan] The GDR and the party you head have so far maintained a very hostile attitude toward Israel. Has this changed?

[Gysi] Of course it has changed. We all agree here that there is a need to reconsider the attitude that was practiced in relation to Israel and the past in general. Israel's history should be observed from a different perspective. The German past gives us a special responsibility, and I believe awareness of that is increasing.

Naturally, we are interested in relations with Israel in all areas, including, of course, political ties. This does not mean that we agree with Israel on every subject. We do, however, maintain relations with countries with which we have various differences.

[Dagan] How would you describe your personal attitude toward Israel?

[Gysi] I have great sympathy for Israel, and I admire its achievements. I believe there is a clear German commitment toward Israel, and I will make this stand clear in my public statements.

[Dagan] Have you ever visited Israel?

[Gysi] Unfortunately, not yet. I do have an invitation to come to Israel next March. The invitation, extended to me by Hebrew University in Jerusalem, was given to me as an attorney who defended political resistance activists. I am active in other areas now, but I hope I will be able to visit Israel. I definitely want to come to Israel, I just do not know the date or the exact framework.

Netanyahu on Ties With GDR, Palestinian Talks

TA1712162189 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Dan Margalit in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Margalit] In our Jerusalem studio is Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who is leaving very soon for a conference of Israeli ambassadors in Europe to consider the changes in East Europe—in the

communist bloc—and what they mean for Israel. Good evening, Deputy Minister Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good evening.

[Margalit] I would like to start with an eastern country which has been very problematic from our viewpoint, the GDR. The GDR says: We want to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. I assume that would not have been a problem for the Government of Israel if, for instance, Minister Bar-Lev and his party [the Labor Party] were running the government. It might be a problem for an Israeli Government led by the Likud, that is by a strong Herut element. Do we have a problem in setting up diplomatic ties with the GDR?

[Netanyahu] The Jewish people and the State of Israel have a problem, it is not a party issue. The main problem is responsibility for the Holocaust, which the GDR has always shaken off. What is happening—I read the newspaper just like you—is the possibility that the GDR might be prepared to pay financial reparations and recognize its responsibility, which is very important. If that is correct, then there is a significant change. It is the only sector of the German people that shirked responsibility for the atrocities and did not atone for them. If there is now a change, I welcome it. I believe that if the reports are correct it could certainly pave the road to normalization in relations between Israel and the GDR.

[Margalit] Does that mean that Yitzhaq Shamir would receive the first GDR ambassador in Israel just as the Labor Party prime minister received the first FRG ambassador?

[Netanyahu] Again, the decisive issue is whether the GDR will adopt the FRG's traditional policy.

[Margalit] Let us assume that they do.

[Netanyahu] In such a case, I believe it would contribute a great deal to normalization of relations.

[Margalit] In such a case, would you recommend that the government establish diplomatic relations with the GDR?

[Netanyahu] If that happens, I would personally certainly recommend it.

[Margalit] You are traveling to a conference of Israeli ambassadors in Europe. We are all witnessing the daily, almost hourly, changes there. Would you say that there is also a change in the attitude of the disintegrating communist bloc's attitude to the State of Israel, or are you still sticking to the position that claimed we saw no change in its attitude toward the Middle East?

[Netanyahu] There has been a far-reaching change. I have just returned from East Europe, from Hungary. I also heard about the other bloc countries. The change is an outcome of the democratization process. There is a change in their internal policy, which immediately leads to a change in foreign policy, and inevitably to a change in their attitude toward Israel. I will give you an example: There were reports that a few years ago the previous Polish Government hosted Abu-Nidal. It would be inconceivable even to think of Lech Walesa's Poland and its present government doing such a thing. That means that the internal change leads to an external change and a change in attitude toward Israel. We welcome it because it breaks up the political ring which tries to isolate us. In the final analysis, I believe it will also influence Middle East elements, which will understand that they are isolated in their extremism against us.

[Margalit] Would you say, had we not been holding such a public conversation, that you were told in East Europe—in Hungary or in other countries: We are sick and tired of all that and regret the policy line we took for the past 20 years?

[Netanyahu] I can say that to you, unrelated to any private conversation. I heard those things quite clearly. They said: We made a mistake, we want to change it. That presents us with an enormous opportunity. Dan, I can tell you that I was shown a deep desire to get to know us, to trade with us, but above all to renew diplomatic relations. There is now an opportunity for an information and diplomatic drive to change Israel's image. What is happening there is that whatever was liked has become detested, whatever was detested has become loved. We are in the latter category. I believe that what we should do, which is what we will discuss in our ambassadors' conference, is to penetrate all the East European countries with a clear-cut policy. The Arabs are concerned about that; they are right; and we will continue to justify that concern.

[Margalit] What does penetrate East Europe mean? In the United States— which you know well, and I also saw what line of action Israel takes there— there is AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee], the Israeli lobby in Washington, which we know has a lot of influence even in times of a slight crisis in relations. Will we set up an AIPAC to work with the Supreme Soviet, or the parliament in Budapest?

[Netanyahu] No, that is not the aim, but there is certainly room to set up friendship societies, which will work together with each Israeli representation in the East Bloc. By the way, not only in the East Bloc, we are also considering doing the same in West Europe, which in my view we have sharply neglected and should work on. But in reference to the East Bloc, what we have now is an opportunity to bring people from there. We must understand that first the change in our image can be made by bringing here those who form public opinion. If I go to Gdansk or Zurich—I have been in Zurich, I still have not been in Gdansk—I can explain there Israel's defense problems. That, however, would not be the same as what happened to me several weeks ago when I conferred with a group of visitors on a hill in Samaria and showed them the seashore from there. You do not have to do a lot of explaining in such a case. First we should bring here

parliamentarians, politicians, opposition leaders, journalists, authors, professors, businessmen, so that they can change public opinion there. We are going to do that very systematically and very actively, and I have no doubt that the results will come quickly.

[Margalit] I therefore assume that in the ambassadors' conference in which you will participate and in the talks you will hold with East Europeans—and let us not forget West Europeans on different occasions—they will, for instance, ask you about the most recent report that Egypt has already presented a list of eight deportees for the delegation to participate in the planned talks in Cairo. Can you confirm that report? Do you, as deputy foreign minister, and does perhaps the foreign minister, support the idea that each deportee who returns to the territories will be able to be a candidate for such a delegation?

[Netanyahu] We have a plan, the Israeli initiative, which refers to elections in Judaea and Samaria. The intention is to enable them, not some group dispersed abroad, to hold the elections. I would not like to make a comparison, God forbid, but Jews abroad cannot determine the outcome of our municipal elections.

[Margalit] But is there an agreement that Palestinian deportees will be returned by Israel to Nabulus, Janin, and Hebron to participate in the Palestinian delegation which will leave for Cairo after the foreign ministers' talks?

[Netanyahu] Whose agreement?

[Margalit] An agreement by the Government of Israel.

[Netanyahu] Are you asking me or are you stating a fact?

[Margalit] I am asking whether you and the Foreign Ministry support such a plan.

[Netanyahu] I would not support it for a simple reason. I am presenting my personal view, which is very clear. I will tell you why. I am surprised by the demand to include deportees. There are 1.4 million Palestinian Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. That is more than enough to have direct elections. Why is there therefore this determination to bring several individuals, who for some security reason had to be taken out of the game? Why bring them back here? That demand is strange to me. On second thought, I think I understand the reason: It is to bring in the PLO through the back or side door, which contradicts our initiative. There is, therefore, no room for it.

[Margalit] The question is whether you are disqualifying deportees in principle. I would not like to remind you of somebody who was an excellent Jew and Zionist, but was deported [apparent reference to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who was deported from Palestine by the British Mandatory authorities in 1941], and you certainly believed he could be a very good representative of the Zionist movement.

[Netanyahu] The main issue here is the elections in the territories. That is what we want to advance. We want real, free elections among the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria. In my view, all the talk about deportees diverts the process not into a side issue, but to another central issue, bringing the PLO into the picture. It harms the process and it would be a shame to do it.

Arens Welcomes CSSR Announcement on Relations

TA1512114489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has welcomed his Czechoslovak counterpart's announcement that his country intends to resume diplomatic relations with Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that according to Minister Arens, it was Czechoslovakia that severed relations with Israel and the decision to renew them depends on it. Israel, added Arens, follows the developments in Czechoslovakia with sympathy.

Referring to the death of Andrey Sakharov, the foreign minister said: We feel deeply about the death of this great fighter for human rights and for the rights of Soviet Jews and the prisoners of Zion. Sakharov always will be remembered as a man who was deeply esteemed by the Jewish people.

Talks on Ties 'In Progress'

TA1712184489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] The CSSR's foreign minister today confirmed that his country is soon to reopen diplomatic relations with Israel. He made the statement to reporter Lucien Meisels, attending the official ceremony tearing down the border fence that was part of the Iron Curtain. Lucien Meisels reports:

Czechoslovakia's first democratic government since 1948 has decided to reopen soon diplomatic relations with Israel. This was stated by the new foreign minister, Jiri Dienstbier, in reply to my question in the Austrian border town of Laa an der Thaya at a ceremony marking the symbolic tearing down along the Austrian-CSSR border of the barbed wire Iron Curtain, of which I am now the proud owner of a 3-inch piece.

Dienstbier told me that the democratic CSSR wanted to play again its rightful role in international affairs, and as far as the Near East was concerned it was therefore absolutely necessary that it should have diplomatic relations with both sides. As far as he knew, negotiations toward this end were already in progress. The foreign minister also had a piece of good advice for the Palestinians. He said that of course the CSSR supported the right of all nations to self-determination, but suggested that the Palestinians should follow the example set by the CSSR and pursue its goals through nonviolent means and peaceful dialogue.

Access to 'Ubayd Tied to That of Downed Airman

TA1712060789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Dec 89 p 1

[Report by Michel Zlotowski]

[Excerpt] Paris—Ron Arad, the Israeli Air Force navigator shot down in Lebanon three years ago, is probably being held prisoner by the Iranians, his wife Tamar told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

Mrs. Arad said she has been assured by Israeli authorities that her husband is alive. "At first Ron was held by Mustafa al-Dirani, head of a group attached to Amal headed by (Shiite leader) Nabih Birri. Birri in fact held a press conference in Sidon the day after my husband's plane was shot down, when he said Ron was his prisoner. But later, Al-Dirani and Birri separated. Al-Dirani took my husband along with him and after a while probably handed him over to the Iranians," she said.

Tamar Arad stressed that "I do not know where he is now. Maybe the Iranians took him to Iran or to Syria. We have no clue, but I know that the Israeli government is doing whatever is possible to free my husband," she added.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has been denied access to Arad until now, she said. "I know that the Red Cross has not been allowed to meet Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd," the South Lebanese Hizballah leader captured by Israel in August, said Tamar Arad. "I have been told this situation will not change until the Red Cross is allowed to meet my husband and all the other Israeli prisoners." Those missing are Yehuda Katz, Zakhary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yosef Fink, Rahamim Alsheikh and Samir As'ad. [passage omitted]

Airman Held by Iranians

TA1712132089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] The defense establishment confirms that navigator Ron Arad is being held by the Iranians. Attorney Uri Slonim, the defense minister's adviser on MIA's and POW's, told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that the defense establishment was doing everything possible to bring the MIA's and POW's back home. He said only a fraction of the activities were made public, such as the visit to Paris by Tami Arad.

Rabin Discusses Intifadah, Palestinian Problem

AU1512152389 Vienna WOCHENPRESSE in German 15 Dec 89 p 32

[Unattributed interview with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin: "There Will Hardly Be Any Calm"; date and place not given]

[Text] WOCHENPRESSE: After Israel, now Egypt has also accepted the plan of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for Israeli-Palestinian Talks—without the formal participation of the PLO. Will there now finally be some movement in the Middle-East scene?

Rabin: It is a positive step, because it accepts the leading role of the United States. I do not want to analyze the Egyptian letter to Baker word by word, in the same way as we will not permit our letter be minutely examined.

WP: And what will happen now?

Rabin: The next step is a meeting of the three (United States, Israel, Egypt) foreign ministers in Cairo, which is to determine the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the agenda (for a preparatory Israeli-Palestinian meeting).

WP: Not all Israelis are as optimistic as you are. Could something still go wrong?

Rabin: I do not think so. The Americans say that the Egyptians have agreed with Baker's plan. And so did we.

WP: What will the Palestinian delegation look like?

Rabin: We will discuss this when the moment is right.

WP: At the beginning of the "intifadah" (uprising) your military representatives on site said that in addition to a military solution there must also be a political solution. Later you prohibited such statements. What is valid now?

Rabin: The government—the democratically elected body—is responsible for the general policy. It was not the task of the Israeli armed forces to liquidate the intifadah. I would never use such an expression. I do not think anything of liquidating, destroying, and eradicating. We saw something like this in other places.

WP: So, what are your real instructions to the army?

Rabin: I say: "Reduce the number of acts of violence until there is calm." Of course, it will not be an ideal calm. This did not exist in the past and it will hardly exist in the future. And I also say: "Facilitate a normal functioning of the (Israeli) civilian administration and the local (Palestinian) bodies—for the benefit of all parties involved." We have not yet achieved this, but we have made progress. The performance of the army must be measured by this progress—within the framework of the given circumstances.

WP: In the third year of the intifadah, for whom is time working now?

Rabin: Under the current circumstances, I think that time is working for us. Many things have changed, also within the intifadah. During the first year we saw bitter confrontations. During the second year, a declining number of Palestinians participated in violent mass actions, apart from throwing stones. This mostly involves children, who are responsible for 85 percent of all incidents. No one is still talking about civil disobedience (tax boycott and similar things). I think that the inhabitants of the territories are tired. And, if there were

no intimidation, they would openly advocate a political process. But I think that we can put this process into motion with a combination of military and diplomatic measures.

WP: Do you see parallels between the struggle for freedom in Eastern Europe and the Palestinian demand for self-determination?

Rabin: I would be happy if the Palestinians in the occupied territories were to demand free democratic elections. Then they could vote and run for a seat, allowing them to negotiate with us. What we see in Eastern Europe today—the call for democracy and freedom for the individual, and all this without violence—is something I would like to see happen in a similar way in the occupied territories. However, what is it that we are seeing? Palestinians are being killed by Palestinians. But I doubt whether the extremists will be able to continue to terrorize the population in such a way.

Palestinians Want To 'Downgrade' Delegation

TA1712132289 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Dec 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpts] Palestinian public figures from the territories, in coordination with PLO leaders abroad, are trying to work out an official list of second- and third-echelon activists in the territories to represent them in negotiations with Israel in Cairo. The idea to downgrade the level of the Palestinian delegation was raised after Israel announced that it would send to Cairo a delegation of government officials that would be authorized to discuss only the election initiative. The new list does not include the names of Faysal al-Husayni and Hanna Sinyurah, and the inclusion of Radwan Abu-'Ayyash is in doubt. Nevertheless, East Jerusalem sources pointed out that advisers from the territories and abroad, who would have a strong influence on the discussions, might be co-opted to the delegation.

The Palestinians oppose elections because of the concern of Yasir 'Arafat and his colleagues in the Fatah leadership, the increasing power of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and because of the danger stemming from opposition by George Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], who publicly denounced the Baker initiative. [passage omitted]

The United States is searching for formulas that would satisfy both sides regarding the participation of Palestinians from outside the territories as well as East Jerusalem representatives in talks with Israel. A proposal currently being worked out that might be acceptable to Israel refers to the inclusion of Palestinians who left the territories after 1967, are not listed as PLO members, and would be prepared to return to the region before their incorporation in a delegation.

Among the names mentioned are Tulkarm Mayor Hilmi Hanun; Mustafa al-Natshah; Jamil al-Tarifi of Ramallah; Ghassan al-Shak'ah or Sa'id Kan'an from Nabulus; and Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, Zakariyya al-Agha, and As'ad al-Saftawi, all Fatah supporters. Other names mentioned are attorney Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, who lives in the village of al-'Ayzariyah near Jerusalem, and Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who is meant to represent the Christians. Among the names recalled as foreign representatives, who, according to the Palestinians, might be acceptable to Israel, are Taysir al-'Aruri, a Communist Party activist recently deported to France, and 'Azmi Sha'ibi [as published], a supporter of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who was deported in the early eighties.

Further Reportage on al-Yarmuk University Clashes

Thirteen Students Arrested

JN1712174489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] Jawdat al-Subul, governor of Irbid, the city where the al-Yarmuk University incidents occured last Wednesday, has stressed to our radio 13 students were arrested on suspicion of being involved in clashes that erupted inside and outside the university campus, and which resulted in five people being injured. [passage omitted]

Governor Confirms Arrests

JN1712183389 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Irbid Governor Jawdat al-Subul said today 13 people were arrested on suspicion of involvement in the regrettable incident that occured Wednesday at al-Yarmuk University. Mr al-Subul said a legal security inquiry commission now is preparing a report on the causes of the incident so the government can handle these causes and prevent the recurrence of such an incident, which harms the fabric of our national unity and unified march.

Prime Minister Comments

JN1612150789 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Excerpt] At the outset of its meeting today, the House of Representatives heard a report detailing the recent regrettable incidents at al-Yarmuk University. Prime Minister Mudar Badran spoke during the session. He said:

[Begin Badran recording] The information available to me is as follows: A quarrel erupted between two small student groups. As the [university] administration told me, the quarrel began with two, three, or four students against a similar number of students. Regrettably, the quarrel took on a chauvinistic nature. The [Irbid] governor was ill, so he was not informed immediately of the incidents. When he was informed by the Directorate of Public Security, he arrested both sides, he told me. The situation then became aggravated. I say this constitutes sedition. We in this country derive support from national unity, which is our only refuge. Where this national unity actually exists, I challenge any conspirator to affect the people or regime with its evils. If national unity is weak, then conspiracies will be numerous. We should bet on this regarding our country's future. These always have been my convictions, not only these days, but also when I was a prime minister in previous governments. All the external conspiracies and hands that wreak havoc from inside only will founder on the people's rock of national unity. We are one people. I strongly denounce the discord and sedition which took place. Therefore, those who are behind this sedition will be referred to the specialized courts. We will not allow this at all. There is sensitivity, as everyone knows, particularly teachers at al-Yarmuk University or elsewhere. Security, however, has a short hand inside the university. It cannot interfere. Only the administration and its guards must intervene. If the security forces intervened inside the university, I would be against this, unless security as a whole is lost; we then would discuss this at the right time. However, under the circumstances of these incidents, there is no need for the security forces to interfere on a university campus. If we want to intervene, then we will contact our brother representatives to explain the issue. We will not have a repetition of past incidents. We will try to resolve this problem through the university administration and its security. This does not mean these students will escape punishment. If one of the students was wounded, then hospitalized for his injuries, then when he is discharged, legal measures will be instituted against anyone who has attempted to play havoc with this country's security. We should pursue this auspicious march without hesitation and strongly safeguard it. We should not allow recklessness to harm this march. Thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Deputies Hold 'Heated' Debate

JN1712115089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Dec 89 p 1,2

[By Nirmin Murad JORDAN TMES Staff Reporter]

[Text] Amman—What was expected to be a regular Lower House of Parliament session to discuss temporary committees turned into a heated four-hour debate between the House and the Government over a students' clash at al-Yarmuk University last week and an opinion challenge on inter Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

The deputies delivered long speeches lashing accusations against several government, security and academic bodies against a background of futile attempts by others who insisted on investigating the real causes of what they described as "national segregation," rather than concentrating on the details of the al-Yarmuk incident. The final outcome of the debate was a decision to set up a committee to investigate the incident and report to the House.

In the beginning of the session, Prime Minister Mudar Badran provided the House with details of the incident at al-Yarmuk and regretted "the sectional character" of the disturbances. "We in this country depend on the solid rock of national unity...we will not let any invisible hand tamper with it. I strongly condemn this incitement," Badran said.

The clashes were described in reports as pitting Jordanian students and students of Palestinian origin.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Muhammad Hamdan, who served as president of al-Yarmuk University before his appointment to the Badran cabinet earlier this month, briefed the House on the clashes.

Hamdan blamed the tension at the University on what he termed as "accumulations from the past, the lack of trust between students and the deanship of students affairs as well as a rift between the teaching staff and the students."

Al-Yarmuk University has been the scene of student political activity and tension which was highlighted in a clash with security forces in 1986 which resulted in the death of three people.

This year's clashes took place during a week held to celebrate the second anniversary of the Palestinian uprising. Reports from the government and Irbid deputies said that there were no deaths and no knives were used in the clashes as claimed in some news reports.

Deputy Yusuf al-'Azm blamed the clashes on "a type of humans who hate to see the festivals of democracy and freedom in Jordan."

He also accused security departments which "dress their staff in civil clothes to walk into the universities and create problems and later arrest the innocent."

He asserted that there was another "force at work" which he only described as "a shadow government." He added that al-Yarmuk University had to be "cleaned of these types to ensure us a real academic university."

Deputy 'Abd-al-Hafiz 'Alawi demanded that the identity of those involved in the affair be announced and then brought to trial "themselves and those behind them."

Deputy Nayif al-Hadid blamed plotters "who plan day and night to ruin this nation and to extend their country from the Nile to the Euphrates.

"It is said that during our celebration of the Palestinian uprising we hear talk of national segregation and sectionalism...this has to stop," Al-Hadid said.

He also spoke against blaming any one party or body for anything before investigating the situation and reaching solid facts.

"We talk a lot but we do not do anything," he concluded.

Deputy Ibrahim Khurayshat pointed out the importance of understanding national unity which he described as "one of the foundations upon which our existence depends and all of us should work to maintain it."

"Highlighting national segregation threatens our existence...we should corner it and oppress so it would not be repeated in other areas in the Kingdom," Khurayshat said.

Amman Deputy Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi warned against "ignoring the importance" of what took place at al-Yarmuk and described the incidents as a "spark which will lead to a consuming fire which will destroy the green and the dry."

He demanded the investigation be conducted by a parliamentary committee "to ensure that no innocent people are incriminated in this issue while the guilty become nationalists who are working to protect Jordan and run free."

Deputy 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr said he found no cause for discussing "national segregation" and said, "The people are one and the nation is one." But he indirectly blamed security departments for policies which encourage "national segregation."

Deputy Hamzah Mansur suggested that an urgent call be sent out to all students in the name of student committees asking them to be patient, he stressed the importance of forming a parliamentary committee to investigate the causes of the clashes.

Deputy 'Abdallah 'Akaylah described the clashes as "a spark to instigate trouble" and called upon deputies to "put out this spark rather than blow on it."

He also asked parliamentarians to head out to their constituencies and talk to the people there about the destructiveness of sectionalism and segregation among one people.

Layth Shubaylat rejected that the problem was solely the responsibility of one department or other. "The problem is that there is a greater policy of national segregation, of Jordanising the Kingdom...there are government departments which only employ East Bank Jordanians," he contended. This is a "realistic problem...we want to end this problem," he added.

He pointed out to what he described as "stubbornness in not changing the academic leaders or deans when such a problem arises."

In reply to the deputies, Badran denied that there was a "shadow government" at his time and said: "What happened was not a departmental policy, it is the policy of the government. [quotation mark as published]

He added that his government "will be responsible for the behaviour of any department and does not need to hide behind any department."

He said that those suspected of involvement in the clashes would be brought to trial and that it was the duty of the judicial authority to deal with them. He warned against the overlapping of tasks among the three authorities and suggested that the House leave the issue to the judicial authority.

He said that the clashes had no ulterior motives. "These accidents happen between students... they happened at the University of Jordan before," he said.

But he added that although these things do happen "they are wrong... extremely wrong."

At the end of the discussions, deputies opted to form a parliamentary committee to investigate the causes of the clashes. The committee was not immediately formed.

Amman Deputy Fakhri Qa'war delivered a speech thanking the premier and cabinet, in the name of journalists and writers, for freedom given to the press and its management as well the reinstatement of the Jordanian Writers Association.

"We are not used to feeling comforted by decisions taken by the military governor except at this time, especially that it is taken as a step towards cancelling military rule," Fakhri Qa'war said.

He expressed hope that these measures will be followed by others which will strengthen the role of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) and reassess the press and publication law.

"I want to deliver the good sentiments of the Jordanian journalists and authors—and I am one of them—to the prime minister and his cabinet and transmit some of their hopes," Fakhri Qa'war said.

He aslo requested the premier that weekly meetings between the minister of information and the editors in chief of newspapers be terminated "since it is the type of coordination which limits the work of press as a fourth authority."

Badran stressed the importance of the meetings, "which put the press in a situation where they know that is going on in the Kingdom. They are not aimed at imposing anything on them."

After knowing the situation they are free to self-censor what they feel could be harmful to the country," Badran concluded.

At the end of the discussion, the House went back to its working schedule for the regular session and elected the temporary committees.

A suggestion by 14 deputies to form a temporary committee charged with investigating the reasons behind the deteriorating economic situation in the Kingdom was referred to the Financial Committee to perform the duties of the suggested committee.

A committee charged with studying martial law and its implications was referred to the Public Freedoms Committee while a suggestion to set up a temporary Unemployment and Prices Committee was referred to the Financial Committee.

The suggestion to investigate the press and the affairs of journalists was referred to the Executive Committee for discussion while a suggestion to develop the judicial system was referred to the Legal Committee.

The deputies unanimously agreed to donate their one-month salary to support the Palestinian uprising.

The House also unanimously agreed to issue a call to the world's parliaments to remind them of the uprising and what it faces in the way of oppression. It will also call on parliaments to work towards supporting the uprising.

The next Lower House meeting will be held Tuesday during which Badran will read his government's policy programme to Parliament.

Investigative Committee Set Up

JN1612173389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Dispatch by Jamal al-'Abbadi, parliamentary affairs correspondent]

[Excerpts] The House of Representatives today concluded its fifth session, chaired by House Speaker Sulayman 'Arar. Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the ministers attended the meeting.

At the outset of the session, the House thoroughly discussed the recent events at al-Yarmuk University. The prime minister gave a detailed report on these events. [passage omitted]

Following a thorough discussion of this subject, the House unanimously approved establishing a 5-member special fact-finding parliamentary committee on the recent events at al-Yarmuk University.

The House then discussed the topics on its agenda, which included the election of members to committees approved during the last session. These are: The Public Liberties and Citizens' Rights Committee, the Agricultural Affairs Committee, the Health and Environmental Health Committee, the Education Committee, the Palestine and the Occupied Arab Territories Committee, and the Rural and Badiyah [Bedouin areas] Committee.

The House also referred the following subjects to the specialized committees:
1. The financial and economic crisis. A parliamentary investigation committee will be set up to determine the reasons behind the deterioration in economic and financial situations.
2. The public liberties and adherence to the constitution's clauses. This was referred to a special committee.
3. The martial law. This was referred to the Legal Committee.
4. Unemployment crisis was referred to the Financial Committee.

The House then discussed the remaining proposals on its agenda. The House referred a proposal to study the situation of journalism and journalists in Jordan to the Administrative Committee. The House also unanimously accepted a proposal to support the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories and to issue an appeal to world parliaments and the United Nations in

which the glorious intifadah and the Israeli oppression are highlighted. The House also approved a proposal to donate 1 month's salary from the deputies' incomes to support the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories. The House also agreed to refer the subject of abolishing martial law and the defense act to the Public Liberties Committee. It also referred the subject of setting up a committee to improve the judiciary and legislation related to judicial authority to the Legal Committee. The House unanimously approved the committees' resolutions to elect the chairmen and rapporteurs of the Financial, Legal, Administrative, and Foreign Affairs Committees.

The House speaker then announced the session will be adjourned until next Tuesday to hear the government's policy statement.

'Differences' Said at Root

JN1512165489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1505 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text]In Amman, political circles have said signs of Palestinian-Jordanian differences surfaced during demonstrations conducted on the second anniversary of the intifadah. Five people were wounded at al-Yarmuk University in Irbid last Wednesday [13 December]. A demonstration also was expected to be conducted today in the Schneller Palestinian refugee camp, 7 km east of Amman.

A responsible Jordanian source today said Palestinian-Jordanian differences no longer are justified. The situation has become clear since the disengagement of legal and administrative ties between Jordan and the West Bank in July 1988.

Paper Interviews Citizens on Returned Passports

JN1312113489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Dec 89 p 3

[By Suhayr 'Ubaydat, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Acting upon directives issued by His Majesty King Husayn to return all impounded passports and allow renewal of others, the Department of Passports and Civil Registration until midday Tuesday returned 125 passports out of a total of 2,714, according to director general of the department 'Isa al-'Umari.

"The total number (of impounded passports) does not exceed 2,714, contrary to some false claims which, at one point, put the figure at 14,000," Al-'Umari told the JORDAN TIMES.

According to Al-'Umari, the procedures of returning the confiscated passports and those whose renewals were frozen have been simplified. The process begins with an application by the citizen to the department, which in turn retrieves the concerned file from the filing section. Then after a series of bureaucratic procedures, the passport is returned to its original holder. In the case where the passport has expired, the holder has to go through the regular procedures of renewal, Al-'Umari explained.

"The procedures might take time," he said. "So, the person is asked to come back the next day to collect the passport, and this is the only reason for delay, if it occurs," he said.

In order to facilitate the matter, the department has extended its office hours by two hours to 4 p.m. "to make it more convenient for those who have to come from distant parts of the Kingdom," Al-'Umari said.

However, Al-'Umari concedes, "we expect a number of passports not to be claimed. The holder may either be outside the country or simply lost interest in obtaining the document."

Downstairs, a number of men and a couple of women crowded in front of a counter with a high glass partition. Passports were piled up and a clerk was shouting the names of people; the concerned person steps forward and collects the green-cover document, which represents a lifesaver for many who may not have been able to take up job offers outside the country.

"The person has to show up in person and present a document to prove his identity in order to go along with the routine procedures of reclaiming the passport," Al-'Umari said.

Watching the reactions of individuals who just got their passports back is quite something. A young man impulsively kissed it and enthusiastically invited his accompanying friend to a celebration that evening.

Another young man puffed a long sigh of relief and quickly hid his passport in the inside of his jacket, as if he was afraid that the counter-clerk might change his mind and take it back.

Listening to the stories of the "vanishing" passports is even more intriguing. In most cases, the stories involve "total innocence" and "complete ignorance" of the circumstances that led the confiscation of the passport.

Muhammad Dawud 'Abd-al-Rahim, who reclaimed his passport Tuesday after the authorities impounded it five years ago, said: "I was first arrested in 1981 because I participated in a students' movement in one of the community colleges where I used to study computer science," 'Abd-al-Rahim said. Adding: "I was released in March 1983, but was arrested again in 1984. It was then that my passport was impounded because I was charged for being affiliated to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)."

"Now, even after I received my passport, I can't believe I can work and travel just like any other citizen," he sounded sceptical, apparently still dazed by the sudden prospect of travelling abroad.

"I am planning to travel as soon as possible, but I am coming back of course," he declared. "This country needs us and our efforts to help out through these difficult times.

"We will never leave our dear country despite the fact that it is burdened with debts and some political nuisances. My colleagues and I are going to do our best to serve our country."

'Abd-al-Rahim asserted that he was a member of the "national force—the Jordanian left," and sees that "our presence in the Lower House of Parliament will accelerate the process of implementing our national 'struggle' programme."

What is his "national struggle programme?"

"I did not for one day freeze my national struggle and I will continue until democracy prevails in a way that guarantees our dignity as citizens," he replies.

"I hope we will be able to cooperate with the authorities to work hand in hand to safe-keep our country."

"We were not confronted as much as we were struggling for the interest of our country," he contended, explaining further his struggle.

"What we are seeking is a democratic country that keeps up with development and progress, one which deals with its citizens within all the provisions of the human rights declaration."

'Abd-al-Rahman Talib joined in to recite his story: "My passport was impounded in 1982 after I came back from Lebanon during the 1982 war there. I was detained for 26 months in al-Mahatah Prison without being tried because of my affiliation to the DFLP.

Talib was released in 1984 and subsequently, by his own admission, participated in what he describes as "popular action" among the union of workers in the field of medical services.

"We were demanding freedoms, democracy and control over the executive authority," he asserted.

Hind Mahmud, a woman of about 35 years, complained of "confusion" over her passport. She said she had filed an application Monday and was told to come back Tuesday. "They had found my file Monday, but when I came back today I find my file is 'misplaced' or 'missing'. Now, I have to write another application."

How come her passport was seized in the first place?

"The authorities impounded my passport because they had doubts it was forged, but it is not," she asserted. "The case is that I always carried my passport in my handbag, so it got a little worn out right behind my mugshot. That is all to it."

She added in a matter-of-fact tone that "my husband's passport is also held for exactly the same reason." But she was unable to explain the "strange coincidence" except that she always carried both passports together with her.

Jihad Jamil al-'Isawi said his passport was seized when he applied for permission to travel to Syria in 1984 (at a time when every Jordanian wishing to visit Syria had to obtain a clearance from the General Intelligence Department). "I was accused of being a member of Fatah," a mainstream faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Al-'Isawi added.

Al-'Isawi is one of six members of the same family whose passports are all impounded. Al-'Isawi's brother, applied for his passport three days before the announcement of the decision to return all impounded passports. Through what he described as his "wasta," he was told to wait for the "expected announcement."

He was still going through the procedures when he was interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES.

Another young man who refused to reveal his name was sarcastic. His passport was impounded from 1982 until 1987. When he got it back he renewed it, but they re-impounded it a week later.

"After they took the JD 20 fee for renewing the passport," chipped in another youth standing by.

A man of about 45 in a black coat and shiny shoes kept on walking past the group talking to the JORDAN TIMES apparently either trying to eavesdrop or making up his mind to talk or not. Sometime later, he appeared to have gathered enough courage and joined he conversation.

But, all he had to say when asked why his passport was impounded was: "The government wished it so."

At this point, it became apparent that the JORDAN TIMES could no longer continue its interviews, particularly because two policemen were eyeing the group with obvious suspicion. So, this reporter decided to call it a day!

President al-Hirawi Sends Envoy to Damascus

NC1312113489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] President al-Hirawi has sent Khalil al-Hirawi to Damascus, where he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, who briefed him on the outcome of the Arab tripartite committee delegation's visit to the Syrian capital.

President al-Hirawi's envoy also visited heads of the Christian sects in Damascus: Patriarch Ignatius IV Hazim, Patriarch Maximus V Hakim, and Bishop Habib Murani.

Cabinet Holds Session, Reviews Government Work

NC1312190089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi chaired a cabinet meeting in Ablah Barracks at 1300 today. Present were Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Ministers 'Abdallah al-Rasi, Edmond Rizq, Nazih al-Bizri, Souren Khanamirian, Nabih Birri, Ilyas al-Khazin, and Dr Albert Mansur. Absent were Ministers Michel Sasin and George Sa'adah, who are now in Paris; Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul, who is in Cairo to take part in the Arab agriculture ministers' conference; Education Minister 'Umar Karami, who is in Cuba leading Lebanon's delegtion to the youth conference of the nonaligned countries; and Public Works Minister Walid Junblatt.

Following the session, Minister Rizq declared on behalf of the government that we will soon attain that to which all Lebanese aspire. He noted that the coming days will prove that the Lebanese people genuinely pursue peace and abhor all signs of partition, insubordination, and rebellion.

During the session, President al-Hirawi paid tribute to the government's measures to consolidate the legitimate authority and the rule of law. Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss then reviewed the measures taken to confront the partitionist condition at home and abroad, particularly emphasizing the administrative bodies and the need to provide citizens with necessary services. The competent ministers then presented reports on the situation in their ministries. The cabinet also was briefed on the steps taken so far to prepare the draft constitutional laws regarding the basic political reforms outlined in the national accord document.

Al-Huss Issues Appeal to East Beirut Residents

NC1512133589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss addressed an appeal to East Beirut citizens today. In his appeal, al-Huss said: We are being asked every day whether force will be used to quell the mutinous movement led by the former army commander. He added: Naturally, we will not allow the mutiny to wreak havoc with the fate of a people and homeland. Responsibility dictates that we must mobilize all available peaceful means in our capacity as the constitutional legitimate authority to put an end to this destructive partitionist phenomenon as soon as possible. We have the weapons of right and legitmacy to accomplish this task, which tops the list of all priorities.

Continuing, al-Huss said: The rebels can obstruct the solution, but they cannot prevent it. In delaying the achievement of the solution, the rebels are prolonging the crisis and the suffering of people. Addressing the East Beirut citizens, Prime Minister al-Huss said: As you know, violence is not the basis of a language for communication between the sons of the one people. We insist that we are one people. We believe that violence is the means for war and not a means for a solution or a means for peace. We are solution seekers and peace advocates. We have a strong, unshakeable faith in Lebanon's unity as a homeland, society, and state. We also believe that the consolidation of Lebanon's unity can be attained through accord, not through violence. We will never beat the drums of war against you. You will only listen to our call for accord, amity, and unity, and God forbid, we will never think even for a moment of declaring war on you.

In his appeal, al-Huss said: However, I just cannot assure you of continuing stability as long as the anomalous partitionist situation continues to exist. While I can guarantee to you that I will not declare war on you, I am not able to guarantee that a war will break out because the experience of the crisis in Lebanon has shown that wars in this country are usually not declared but just erupt. He added: There is one guarantee for peace and stability: It is the unity of Lebanon, it is the political solution, and it is the national accord. Hence, we focused on the al-Ta'if accord as an accord among the Lebanese. The accord can achieve three long- awaited objectives: Change the situation in the country from the armed struggle to peace, revive legitimacy and the constitutional institutions, and emphasize Lebanon's unity and presence. We have accepted the al-Ta'if for the sake of these objectives. [passage omitted]

In his appeal, al-Huss said: The road to peace should be the road of dialogue and struggle through peaceful means and through the constitutional institutions. Mutiny and rebellion will only prolong the life of crisis at the expense of the citizens' safety and the fate of the homeland's unity and existence.

Prime Minister Welcomes U.S., French Position

NC1712111089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has welcomed the clear, frank, and unequivocal position which U.S. President George Bush and French President Francois Mitterrand expressed after their meeting yesterday. The two presidents affirmed that they support Lebanon's unity and the al-Ta'if national accord document and

reject the partitionist movement led by 'Awn. In this position, Prime Minister al-Huss perceived support for us and the course we are following. In pursuing this course, we are exerting all the energy and effort we have in order to completely reunite Lebanon: Homeland, society, and state.

'Awn Addresses Students at B'abda 14 Dec

NC1412124189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has addressed a group of students who visited B'abda Palace. He said: You are setting an example for the world. The world conspired against us, expecting our surrender. It is now expecting that you will lose interest. We tell the world: We will not lose interest or get fed up or tired. We will fight with our bare hands and all our resources to defend our existence. Our battle will determine whether man will continue to exist on Lebanese soil as well as outside Lebanon.

He added: There are rights in Lebanon which must be established and recognized. There are no rights or interests that should have priority over our rights.

Vows To Fight 'Submission'

NC1412194889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] General Michel 'Awn resumed his meetings today with political, partisan, and leading figures.

Speaking to students who were staging a sit-in, 'Awn said: In the past, we fought with the gun and the tank. Yesterday we said that we would fight with stones and kitchen knives. Today we challenge the world and say that we will fight with bare chests. We will not get discontented or tired.

During a meeting with engineers this afternoon, he said: It is certain that Gen 'Awn represents an obstacle to the agreements they are trying to impose on us. He is a dam that cannot be breached. We are proud of those who are trying to show him as though he is a [word indistinct].

He added: We are an unbreachable dam hindering the course of all the solutions of submission, which would estrange Lebanon from its real identity, its atmosphere of freedom, its sovereignty, and its independence, so that it may be presented as a gift to a dictatorial regime, or be a substitute for the occupied territories or other things which are lacking. He said: Do not let them think, even for a second, that they can jump over that obstacle. God willing, we will reach the safe haven.

'Awn Reportedly To Sign Treaty With Israel

JN1612112289 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 14-15 Dec 89 pp 1, 20

[Muhammad 'Anan dispatch from Beirut]

[Excerpt] AL-SIYASAH has learned from informed sources that Lebanese and Israeli delegations are currently shuttling between B'abda Palace and Tel Aviv conducting intensive consultations between General 'Awn and Israeli leaders. Informed sources told AL-SIYASAH yesterday that an Israeli delegation led by General Yosi Peled and including three high-ranking intelligence officers visited B'abda Palace on 1 and 2 December this year. AL-SIYASAH has also learned that a Lebanese delegation including Ityan Saqr, also known as Abu-Arz, and both Shakir Abu-Sulayman and Dr Raymond Mallat had also paid a secret visit to Tel Aviv as envoys of Gen 'Awn.

Arising from this, the Israeli and Lebanese delegations agreed that Israel would interfere militarily in Lebanon if B'abda Palace or the Army command were exposed to any Syrian-backed offensive. In return, the Israelis demanded that 'Awn should sign a peace treaty with them.

Military sources told AL-SIYASAH that Fawzi Abu-Farahat, a Lebanese Army officer, visited Israel secretly on 6 December on 'Awn's instructions to discuss with the Israelis the final draft of the peace treaty 'Awn will sign with Israel. The sources added that Abu-Farahat stopped over in Marj 'Uyun where he met with [South Lebanese Army Commander] Antoine Lahd prior to his meeting with the Israelis. [passage omitted]

General Preparing To Establish Separate State

NC1712143289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] New details were uncovered today about the conspiracy for partition and Cypriot-like fragmentation which the mutinous and secessionist group is seeking to implement. The conspiracy enjoys the support of Israel, international parties, and Arab reactionaries.

The magazine AL-SHIRA' today revealed a secret document which was prepared by a secessionist working group commissioned by Michel 'Awn as a response to the al-Ta'if agreement. The group includes Staff Brigadier General Fu'ad 'Awn, Attorney Walid Faris, and Roget 'Azzam. The document first affirms 'Awn's rebellion against the legitimate authorities and his insistence on remaining in B'abda Palace regardless of the consequences. Second, it provides for turning the citizens of the eastern area into bastions protecting 'Awn by staging sit-ins at B'abda Palace and necessarily linking his fate with the eastern area's fate in a way that will make any threat of military action against him a threat to the Christians. The document also stipulates guarantees of Israeli support in the event the eastern area is subjected to military attack. (Yitzhaq Leor), adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and a major Mosad figure, affirmed this point to Attorney Walid Faris during a recent meeting in Paris.

Third, Patriarch Sfayr will be forced to accept this scheme or be forced to leave the eastern area. The

document also provides for reaching an understanding with the Lebanese Forces command over implementing this scheme, which does not contradict the Lebanese Forces' political program. Plans will be prepared for the future absorption of the Lebanese Forces into the structure of the free Lebanon and then isolating each constituent party of the Lebanese Front as a prelude to absorbing or destroying it.

Fourth, the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies will be followed, at least theoretically, by a call to hold general elections.

Fifth, the government will be expanded and a state of emergency declared in such a way that the armed forces will assume actual power.

Sixth, a constituent assembly will be formed. It will draw up a new constitution and pass the necessary laws.

The document prepared by 'Awn's aides states that economic experts will study this statelet's economic affairs. These affairs will include the nationalization of Christian endowments [al-awqaf al-masihiyah] and U.S. companies, controlling the banks, confiscating the property of people who were displaced or had escaped from the eastern area, and imposing high taxes on capital inside the area and abroad.

Regarding administrative organization, Annex 1 of this document divides the area into four provinces as follows: First, the Jubayl province, which will include the Jubayl district, the al-Batrun ridge, and some villages in the central sector; second, the Kasrawan-al-Futuh province; third, the East Beirut province which will include al-Ashrafiyah and its suburbs on the northern and southern al-Matn coasts; and fourth, the upper al-Matn province which will include the central areas of northern and southern al-Matn and the liberated part of the 'Alayh district.

'Awn Comments on 'Liberation' of Other Areas

NC1712150989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] At B'abda Palace, Prime Minister Michel 'Awn told delegations who visited him today that the liberation process has been consolidated. He added: We are currently preparing to move to the other areas which will be liberated soon.

'Awn said: Very soon we will call on Tripoli, the north, al- Biqa', and the south to express their will as you have done. To the residents of West Beirut, al-Biqa', and the south who are accusing us of seeking partition, we say: We will reach you and liberate you from the yoke of occupation.

Michel 'Awn Says Al-Ta'if Pact Syria's 'Reward'

NC1812163989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said he believes that the objective behind the al-Ta'if agreement is to hand over Lebanon [to Syria] in return for what has been lost, the Golan Heights, instead of Yasir 'Arafat's head. He said he believes that the international insistence on the al-Ta'if issue and the prompt international recognition of this agreement as a solution to the Middle East crisis [as heard] signifies giving a reward to Syria. He wondered: How can agreement be reached unilaterally?

'Awn expressed surprise at the daily statements of President Bush and the U.S. State Department, noting that these statements mean that the Lebanese people should abandon themselves.

Gen 'Awn's remarks came during his reception of a delegation from the Jubayl branch of the National Bloc Party.

At 1800 today Gen 'Awn is due to receive a popular demonstration which began marching from Antilyas to B'abda Palace. The marchers will give him a large flag, 150 square meters in area, bearing the signatures of Lebanese individuals.

Gen 'Awn met earlier with former President Hilu who stated that not everything that is said in private can be said publicly.

He also met with Maronite League President Shakir Abu-Sulayman who said that when the al-Ta'if conference was held it disregarded General 'Awn, head of the legitimate government, and disregarded the popular will which supports Gen 'Awn's views and theories. He added that in consequence the results of the al-Ta'if conference have been destructive.

Lebanese Forces Reported in 'State of Confusion'

NC1412151589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] According to confirmed reports from the eastern part of Beirut, the Phalangist Lebanese Forces are in a state of confusion as a result of recent stands and the pressures brought to bear on the forces by mutinous officer Michel 'Awn.

The reports affirm that 400 Lebanese Forces fighters have defected to 'Awn's side, while 600 others have taken refuge among [former President] Amin al-Jumayyil's followers in the Phalangist Party.

Source Says Ja'ja's Forces Recognize Al-Hirawi

PM1412141489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Dec 89 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "'Forces' Have Informed 'Awn of Recognition of Al-Hirawi's Legitimacy"]

[Excerpts] Rome, Paris, Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The foreign ministers of the Arab higher tripartite committee member states arrived in Rome yesterday to meet with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and Vatican officials. This is the fourth stop on the ministerial committee's tour, which also included Damascus, Iraq, and Paris.

The ministers' talks are focusing on ways of helping Lebanese legitimacy proceed with the reform march and the extension of the Lebanese state's sovereignty over its territory.

In Paris, informed sources said that the tripartite committee's ministers urged France to take a clearer position on current developments in Lebanon, especially regarding the position of General 'Awn, who is refusing to recognize the legitimacy of President Ilyas al-Hirawi's government. [passage omitted]

In Beirut, informed sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Lebanese Forces, led by Dr Samir Ja'ja', informed 'Awn that they would deal with President al-Hirawi in his capacity as head of the legitimate authorities. The sources also said that the Lebanese Forces informed 'Awn that they were studying the possibility of participating in Al-Hirawi's government on the basis of the national accord document, and would later seek—via the Chamber of Deputies—a clarification or amendment of some of its points.

The sources added that the Lebanese Forces also stressed that they would fight alongside 'Awn if the eastern area were exposed to an invasion attempt.

The sources did not rule out an escalation in the severe disputes in the eastern area between the brigades loyal to 'Awn on the one hand and the Forces and the Phalangist Party on the other, despite Ja'ja's assurances that a military confrontation is not on the cards.

Meanwhile, sources in the eastern area said that 'Awn now is studying a number of measures to respond to recent developments, including the possibility of holding parliamentary elections on the basis of the decree issued by his government to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies.

The sources added that, if held, the elections will be confined to the eastern areas alone and that they could be replaced by a kind of referendum on the national accord document.

Ja'ja' Admits Dispute Exists

NC1812093889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] [Lebanese Forces Commander] Dr Samir Ja'ja' has disclosed that there has been a hidden dispute between the Lebanese Forces and General Michel 'Awn. He said that the dispute is deep-rooted and involves several points, including political and military stands.

Ja'ja' went on to say: Why should we not accept the current proposals? He added: We should give the current situation a chance. If the Syrian Army withdraws, so much the better; if it does not withdraw then that will be another story. Dr Ja'a' expressed the belief that the Lebanese problem will not be resolved tomorrow because it is contingent on the solution of the crisis in the region. He expressed his confidence that the country will not be partitioned because partition is not acceptable in the foreseeable future.

Ja'ja' Assesses Political, Military Situation

NC1412214889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' today received more political, party, and popular delegations and leading figures who came to the Lebanese Forces headquarters to declare support for his stands. This afternoon delegations representing Majdil al-'Aqurah, the citizens of the mountain area, Zgharta al-Zawiyah, and Kafr 'Ubayda visited Ja'ja'.

Dr Ja'ja' made several speeches to the delegations. In one of these speeches he said:

[Begin recording] Today we are witnessing a critical situation in Lebanon. The situation is critical militarily. Despite the fact that we are currently in a state of truce, the situation is politically critical in light of the present positions of the international, regional, and Arab groups. It is no secret to any of us that Arab and international policies require much effort on our part so that they may again constitute support to the cause. International and Arab groups are currently moving in other directions. There is no doubt that the situation is critical. There are military concentrations and there is a massing of political forces. Military concentrations have never frightened us. If we want to start from any point, let us start from here. This means they can have as many concentrations as they want. If they believe that by having concentrations or by issuing military threats they can frighten us, they are very wrong. Let us start from this point: They cannot frighten us by military concentrations. We have been accustomed to this atmosphere for 15 years now. These are stages which we have passed. Again we say that they cannot frighten us with military concentrations.

In my view political concentrations are more serious than military ones. However, if we work as we should there could be a solution for these political concentrations.

We must draw up a wise and conscious plan to confront all these developments, on both the military and the political levels. In my opinion, if we act appropriately and in a wise manner we will be able to draw up such a plan. I begin by noting that nothing is impossible. Every problem in the world can be solved. There are no situations which cannot be surmounted. If we act as we should we can solve our current problems, surmount the military threats against us, and penetrate the international silence on this issue.

In order to attain these objectives, there are conditions to observe. They might not be new, but they are important and precise. The first basic condition if we are to attempt to extricate ourselves from the current situation is our unity and cohesiveness. On this occasion we say if the eastern area is united politically and militarily we will be able to solve many of our problems. For the eastern area to have closed ranks politically and militarily, we must expand our horizons a little and become a little more patient with each other. We must have a spirit of love toward each other, be able to understand each other, and be able to listen to each other. Therefore, the first condition is to have a united stand and a united policy. This is a very important condition. It is possible to fulfill it but this requires much understanding, consciousness, foresight, and patience. The current situation is this: Some people are sitting behind fortifications in the north, others in the south, others in al-Biqa', and others in Beirut. Every group is sitting behind fortifications somewhere. While some people are sitting behind fortifications here and some along the sea, it is not possible for us to mobilize all our capabilities. It requires a wide political operation to attract and mobilize all the free capabilities in this country. We must (?reach) agreement with them over the country's destiny and future, and primarily over ways of extricating ourselves from the current situation. Brothers, if we continue to call each other traitor, to attack each other, disparage each other, make empty talk, blow trumpets, hang posters and decorate them, this will not save the situation. It will make the crisis worse. It will be to our detriment. It will lead to a fragmentation of forces.

What is required is a far-reaching, reasonable, precise, and broad approach that attracts and embraces all parties in order to reach understanding over ways of confronting the current stage. The second principal condition is that we must indeed be ready militarily. All of us, not only the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Forces, but the people as a whole, must be ready to confront any possible military developments directed against the free areas. At the same time we must consider that when God gave us strength, he also gave us minds. What is required is that before we mobilize our military forces, we must first see what we can do politically, using our logic, contacts, and international and Arab relations. We must explore what we can do to ease this crisis. If in the end no alternative to military confrontation offers itself, then so be it. However, before we reach the point of confrontation and while we are preparing for it, we must try all other methods. You know that in the past [words indistinct] used to say: The brave and clever commander is the one who wins the battle without fighting a war. If any commander among us embarks on war, in the end we will all be like each other. Such a commander ends up as a very ordinary commander. If any commander possesses military power, then he can wage war against another power. A really brave commander—not a commander who merely wages war—is the commander who tries to win the battle without fighting the war. Hence, we must attempt to win this battle without waging war. If eventually there is no alternative to fighting, we are ready. If war is inevitable, brother, we are ready. We must be ready and will prepare ourselves for such an eventuality. Nevertheless, we must utilize all our logical, intellectual, and political powers and make all possible contacts in order to attempt to win this battle—the current battle of confrontation—without embarking on war, except as a last resort in the event all other methods fail.

I believe that we must concentrate on these two points only: On the one hand we must attain unity and unification in the true sense of the word, and mobilize capabilities in the true sense of the word. We currently need all our free capabilities. On the other hand we are making military preparations to confront any eventuality. We must also use our powers of reason, our minds, and our contacts. We must also use politics. God created politics to be used. Politics is the stage of cold confrontation. War is the heated stage. In some circumstances the heated stage is imposed on you and you go ahead. We have done so before and are ready to do so at any time. Nevertheless, there are other stages which we must try. We must exhaust the stages of cold confrontation and try to win during these stages before reaching the heated stages. However, if military confrontation is inevitable, we certainly are ready for it. We have been at such a stage before and are still in it. We will always be ready to go ahead with it. [end recording]

Lebanese Forces Officer Discusses Situation

NC1712113089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Editorial by Vivian Salibah Daghir in latest issue of AL-MASIRAH, entitled: "Resistance Is Coming"]

[Excerpts] Many who are not specialists prefer to discuss current politics without going into the historical background of the situation and without analyzing the interaction of the causes, implications, and outcome of events. These nonspecialists would say: This is where we are; what do we do now? But they would consider the following questions to be details not worth wasting their time in trying to understand: Why are we here? Why are we in trouble? [passage omitted]

A Lebanese Forces [LF] officer entered the AL-MASIRAH offices with the above-mentioned questions. In his eyes was the glint of satisfaction from our having reminded those who wanted to marginalize our role and turn it into a footnote that we are still around. Also in his eyes was a shadow of disappointment over those who—in the glory of power and influence—have forgotten the legacy of martyrs who have died for a cause that is for every fighter more precious than power, authority, and influence.

Looking every bit the tired fighter, the LF officer seated himself and asked: Why is East Beirut in this crisis? In a few days it will be Christmas, and here we are: Our hearts are heavy and our eyes are on our fronts, on the Syrian build-up, on the threat of a decisive battle, on the threat of partition, and on mistakes that have accumulated, gathered, and concentrated in 800 square km, or 850 square km in summertime if we include Sannin hills, he said with a laugh.

Alas, the officer said, we are confined here by the boundaries of an embattled freedom and a sovereignty surrounded by troop concentrations and the threat of a final battle. We have no backing from the Constitution. We are actually being insubordinate to the legitimacy represented by a Maronite president of the republic and a Maronite Army commander.

The officer sighed and said: We were talking about 10,452 square km, [Lebanon's total area] and now we are apprehensive about the remaining 800 square km. [passage omitted]

We have lost a geographic area. This is true. But we have learned our lesson. We have learned that a clear and unshifting ideology is indispensable for the life of nations. We have learned that the Christians have never won an inch of land with the sword, but have done it with politics and diplomacy. We have learned that we never lost a battle unless we took to arms in unfavorable regional and international political climate and fought an enemy who has political, geographic, and religious roots and a strong affiliation with a wider Muslim community.

How did this happen? Because we acted unilaterally and with no regional or international power backing us to preserve the balance of power in the region. Whether we like it or not, we live in a region where we can be no more than non-Muslim subjects [ahl Dhimmah] if we rely on the power of religion and a minority, if we rely on the power of numbers.

The war of Zahlah shook the world and we lost the pearl of al-Biqa'. The mountain war uprooted us and cost us a strategic loss second only to our first strategic mistake of bringing the Syrians into the country. Today, though it may be a little early to judge, we can see the signs of a coming third strategic mistake [not further identified] that would threaten what remains of a free area we have protected with our blood and faith. [passage omitted]

The officer said: Some people are alarmed because we put up some posters for the resistance in the streets and on our cars. Some people are concerned because we have decided to end a silence that no longer helps us, East Beirut, or the Christians. They are alarmed because we have reminded them that we are still around and will keep the balance tipped in the battle of steadfastness.

The officer paused and said: Had we wanted power for ourselves, we could have grabbed it a long time ago. Everyone knows that. What we sought, however, was freedom and a country that is free and sovereign, a country that belongs to both Muslims and Christians. We wanted Lebanon to remain neutral between two regional powers that want to make it a bone of contention. But, because we sought a cause and not a seat of power, we have become a target for assorted accusations.

The LF officer said: Please write that and fill your pages with it. Tell the people that we cherish the icon of freedom. East Beirut, alas, has become our last vestige, which makes it even dearer to us, every single stone in it, and we will not allow it to shrink any further.

In your magazine, the officer said, you wrote that we have lost the war of liberation. This was a daring statement of reality that we had not heard before. Yes, we have lost. But I came today on behalf of thousands of my colleagues to ask you to tell everyone inside and outside this country, those who love us and those who do not, those who support us and those who do not, that we are not going to lose an inch from now on. We are not going to lose one battle, political or military, from now on. We will not allow this to happen. By God, we will not allow this to happen. Resistance is coming.

Phalange's Sa'adah Views Constitutional Crisis

PM1412152989 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 15 Dec 89 p18

[Unattributed interview with Lebanese Phalange Party Leader Dr George Sa'adah; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] AL-HAWADITH: It seems that developments in Lebanon point to the continuation of the status quo. If neither the settlement of the issue nor backtracking is allowed, then the general [Michel 'Awn] and President al-Hirawi will remain in their places. Would this not mean that partition is the only possible result?

Sa'adah: Yes, there can be no doubt that the continuation of the status quo would lead to partition, God forbid.

AL-HAWADITH: Who would be responsible in that case?

Sa'adah: General 'Awn would be responsible if partition did occur. Parition would be a catastrophe for the Christians above all, and for Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you see any possibility of amendment of the al-Ta'if document in the interest of rapprochement between the parties to the crisis?

Sa'adah: No, I do not think so. Any such change would mean casting doubt on the agreement reached between the committee and the deputies. There is no room for doubt. There are Arab guarantees of a Syrian withdrawal and the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty and health. That is sufficient so long as the liberation war cannot liberate for local (realistic), regional, and international considerations.

AL-HAWADITH: What are the real differences between you and Gen Michel 'Awn. You were allies once.

Sa'adah: The general knows, and everyone else knows that ever since its foundation, the Phalange Party always has supported legitimacy. When Gen 'Awn's cabinet was formed we announced then and proved that it was the only legitimate cabinet in Lebanon, and we never recognized the fait accompli government of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. However, after the late Rene Mu'awwad was elected president, we considered that he represented legitimacy. Even after the election of the martyred President Mu'awwad we still considered that the legitimate cabinet was that of Gen 'Awn which had been formed constitutionally and legitimately. On the same basis we later recognized the cabinet of Prime Minister al-Huss after he was entrusted with the task of forming the cabinet by President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Regarding disagreement or agreement between us and the general, one cannot deny that the general's views were basically our views. That is why Gen Michel 'Awn should act and proceed in accordance with the following theory: If we want Lebanon to regain its health, independence, and sovereignty, then we must all join hands in the service of the new government of accord. I have urged everyone to participate in the government to make it a government of accord in word and deed.

AL-HAWADITH: Are you talking about the general participating in the cabinet?

Sa'adah: Yes, that is what I mean. Without indulging in philosophy, we should all take part in this government to make it a government of national unity. What harm would it do Gen 'Awn if he were a member of the government and worked within the government for the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement? He could do this to help everyone work together with the deputies who support us for the proper implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement and for the full implementation of the provision on withdrawal. If that was then not implemented, we would at least have done our duty and we could then mobilize ourselves and ask the states which wanted us to implement the agreement to help us out of the dilemma. [passage omitted]

Papal Nuncio Called to Vatican for Consultation

NC1512071489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] It was reported today that Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente was summoned for consultations by the Vatican's foreign affairs department 48 hours ago. He will convey a message from General 'Awn.

Hizballah's Fadlallah Assails Vatican's Policy

NC1512203289 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has strongly criticized the Vatican's policy toward Lebanon, saying this policy is aimed at maintaining Lebanon as a base for asserting Christian superiority in the region.

Our correspondent in Beirut said 'Allamah Fadlallah delivered the two Friday prayer sermons in Imam al-Rida Mosque in southern Beirut. Fadlallah declared in his sermon that the Vatican applies all sorts of pressure on Lebanon and the Arabs to keep power in the hands of the Christians in Lebanon and, in turn, to keep the country a fundamental base for Christians in the region.

He added: However, we urge the Christians to resolve their problems with the Muslims through negotiations, so that each party may obtain its legitimate rights.

Fadlallah warned against the hazards of turning southern Lebanon into an arena of conflict between Lebanese forces and parties. Therefore, he said, the Amal Movement and Hizballah must take steps to end their dispute within the framework of the agreements signed in Tehran and Damascus. He said they must also take steps toward unifying their ranks and foiling the Israeli plots designed to foment sedition and division.

Fadlallah 'Will Not Accept' Maronite President

NC1812082589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that Muslims have no complex over living with Christians in one country.

He added: We are not planning to strike at the Christians in Lebanon like America thought of evicting us. However, from now on, we will not accept the imposition of a Maronite president and a Maronite army commander on us. Our aspirations are for the Lebanese people to be equal in rights and duties.

His eminence pointed out that people were compelled to carry arms because the official policy's plan was for the army to be the army of political Maronism, not an army for Lebanon. He recalled that it was this army which struck at the oppressed in Beirut and the Suburb and stood fast in the face of Syria and never faced the Zionist entity.

In a speech at Husayniyat Hay al-Sullum, marking the 1 week since Shaykh 'Isam Shamas died, Fadlallah warned against sedition recurring between the brothers in Hizballah and the Amal Movement. He urged everyone to assume his responsibilities.

He said: We do not want more sedition. We want the Suburb, Beirut, and Western al-Biqa' to be places of peace, not war.

Resignation of PSP Political Bureau Accepted

NC1612154889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] Central Committee held its regular meeting today under the chairmanship of Walid Junblatt, the party's leader. The Central Committee discussed the party's organizational status and issued the following statement:

The country's future and unity are endangered as a result of the blatant isolationist and partitionist plan, in accordance with which the Christian entity has established its base in the eastern area prior to extending it further in the area. This is part of a greater plan that aims to bring about the disintegration of the entire Arab region.

In order that these dangers may be faced, clear political vision and precise understanding of the dimensions and organizational mechanism of this plan are needed, as well as a comprehensive working program commensurate with the nature of the forthcoming stage. In view of all this, the PSP Central Committe has decided:

1. To accept the resignation of the Political Bureau;

2. To bring forward the date of the PSP congress from August 1990 to the second half of January;

3. To form a preparatory committee for the congress that will study and draft all recommendations and proposals endorsed by the conferees, and will make all the necessary arrangements for the congress;

4. To delegate the PSP leader to assume all the Central Committee's powers until the congress is held; and,

5. To request the heads of the executive offices to continue carrying out their tasks as usual until the congress is held.

Jibril Addresses Beirut Conference on Intifadah

NC1412145589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] The second world conference in support of the Palestinian intifadah will conclude at the Bristol Hotel in Beirut today. The final session will be held this afternoon.

Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, made a speech at a session held this morning. He attacked Yasir 'Arafat for abandoning the Palestinian cause and betraying the struggle and sacrifices of the Palestinian people. He also attacked the United States, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.

He said that Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories, the Egyptian 10-point plan, and James Baker's plan all want the intifadah aborted.

Jibril criticized the immigration to Palestine of Jews, particularly those from the Soviet Union. He called on all Muslim muftis to issue declarations labeling anyone who disregards the Palestinian people's rights as a traitor and imposing a boycott on U.S. goods.

Jibril concluded by greeting the Lebanese nationalist forces and the Syrian Army and people under the leadership of Hafiz al-Asad. He also addressed a message of greetings and appreciation to Iran.

'Arafat Denies Attack

NC1512185989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has asserted that no attack whatsoever has been carried out by a Palestinian group against the Syrian position in al-Rumaylah.

In an exclusive interview with France Inter, 'Arafat said that the al-Rumaylah clashes were between two Palestinian and Lebanese organizations, the names of which he did not reveal.

Syrians Deployed in Western al-Biqa' Town

NC1612105789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Our correspondent in western al-Biqa' has reported that a 50-man Syrian military unit was deployed in Suhmur township at dawn today. The deployment, which comes in the wake of the recent incidents between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the area, was carried out after a meeting which the Syrians held with leading figures in western al-Biqa'.

Fatah, Amal, Hizballah Groups Placed on Alert

NC1712190889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Fatah gunmen and another Fatah group that supports Fathi 'Uraydat, alias Abu-Mahir, in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp have been placed on alert after Abu-Mahir was accused of collaborating with Syrian intelligence. Palestinian sources said that during last Thursday's attack on the Syrian intelligence post in al-Rymaylah, Abu-Mahir's name and the names of eight other persons, including that of Mahir Hammud, head of the Islamic group in Sidon, were found listed as collaborators with Syrian intelligence.

The Palestinian sources accuse Abu-Mahir of leaking information that Fatah had carried out the attack in al-Rumaylah.

In the meantime, in the wake of last Thursday's attack on a Syrian intelligence post in al-Rumaylah, the Syrian intelligence service reinforced its positions on the coastal road from 'Alman- Jisr al-Awwali to al-Rymaylah-(al-Fajjiyah) today.

In another development, Amal and Hizballah gunmen have been put on alert in 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Jba' in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Both parties have set up checkpoints in these areas.

Meanwhile, sources close to the extremist gunmen in the south have said that 107-mm Katyusha's have been fired in the direction of an Israeli position in the border village of Yarin. The Katyusha's hit their target setting it on fire.

An explosive device exploded as a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol was passing on al-'Ayshiyah road at dawn today. No casualties were reported. The SLA retaliated by using artillery to shell some areas close to the border strip.

Palestinian, Nasirite Gunmen Clash Near Sidon

NC1812180689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1725 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Shortly after 1900 today, clashes involving rockets and automatic weapons took place at the approach to Sidon between Palestinian gunmen and others belonging to the Nasirite Popular Organization. The clashes soon extended to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah area.

Exchanges of fire are also taking place on the Kafr Falus front.

Further Reportage on Renewed Contacts With Egypt

Transport Minister Comments

PM1412160989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Dec 89 pp 1-2

[Jamal 'Anayat report: "Meeting Expected Between Mubarak and Al-Asad To Discuss Resumption of Relations"]

[Excerpt] Damascus, Cairo, Tripoli, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Syrian Transport Minister Yusuf al-Ahamd has announced in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, which was represented aboard the first Egyptian passenger plane to arrive in Damascus in 12 years, that a meeting is expected between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to initiate the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has not ruled out convening a Egyptian-Syrian-Libyan meeting.

The Syrian transport minister said Damascus expects President Mubarak's personal envoy to arrive and meet with President al-Asad to complete contacts made between the two countries and to discuss all questions so there will be full cooperation between them in all fields.

On the possibility of Syrian officials soon visiting Cairo, he said there have been no barriers between Syria and Egypt. He said the Syrian interior minister attending the Arab interior ministers conference in Cairo, and the Syrian youth minister attending the Arab youth ministers conference recently conducted in Cairo proove this.

He added the Syrian officials' visits to Egypt emphasize the depth of relations between the two countries, whether through participation in political meetings or popular social meetings. He also said Egyptian officials are expected to participate in future meetings in Syria.

Yusuf al-Ahmad, who headed those receiving the first Egypt Air flight to arrive in Syria, said the reopening of the Cairo-Damascus air route marks a new page in relations between the two countries, and that the announcement of the decision to start air flights is a historic moment and a step in the Arab nation's interests.

He also said: We hold inside us all love and appreciation for Egypt.

He announced the Syrian authorities decided to give Egyptian citizens the same treatment as Syrian citizens, as Egyptians are allowed to enter without an entry visa. He also said: We hope Syrians will be treated the same.

He said that for this reason six flights a week by the Egyptian and Syrian companies will not be enough, considering the increasing passenger traffic between the two countries. Nevertheless, they represent a start reflecting a real desire to deepen relations and increase tourism between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Meets Egyptian Envoy

JN1712160089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 17 Dec (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1200 today Safwat al-Sharif, Egyptian information minister and President Husni Mubarak's envoy, and 'Umar Musa, ambassador at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Al-Sharif conveyed to the president a message from President Husni Mubarak. He also conveyed to the president the greetings of President Mubarak. The president asked him to send a response to President Mubarak along with his best wishes to him and our people in fraternal Egypt. The two messages deal with cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Conversation during the meeting dealt with cooperation between Syria and Egypt. The president stressed Syria's interest in strengthening that cooperation in all fields in a manner that will serve the interests of both fraternal countries and the Arab nation's issues.

The president will send a special envoy to President Hunsi Mubarak in few days.

Envoy Comments on Visit

JN1712173789 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 17 Dec (SANA)—Safwat al-Sharif, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's envoy and Egypt's information minister, left Damascus this evening following a 1-day visit to Syria. 'Umar Musa, ambassador at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, accompanied him.

The minister was seen off at the airport by Information Minister Muhammad Salman and senior Information Ministry staff.

In a predeparture statement to journalists, Al-Sharif said: I would like to say I had the honor of carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to his brother, President Hafiz al-Asad, and of conveying His Excellency President Mubarak's viewpoints on a number of important issues of interest to both countries and on the future of relations between the two fraternal countries, which these days actually are witnessing positive developments.

Regarding Syrian-Egyptian relations, Al-Sharif said: Although these relations and consultations always have existed, they recently have started going through a very advanced and positive phase and the contacts between Presidents Mubarak and Al-Asad. [sentence as received]

He added: I am returning to Cairo carrying an equally important message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Husni Mubarak dealing with these subjects, which concern the future of fraternal relations between

the two brotherly countries. Both messages—from President Husni Mubarak and from President Hafiz al-Asad—assert the need to take progressive steps promoting the march of joint action in all fields within the framework of strong and normal relations between the two fraternal countries—relations that are in harmony with the history of Syrian-Egyptian relations. These relations always have assumed a special character and had a national and pan-Arab basis.

Al-Sharif added: The feelings President Hafiz al-Asad asked me to convey to President Husni Mubarak in fact are feelings of Arab fraternity and appreciation of pan-Arab responsibility. This is the joint responsibility that accords with the long history and struggle joining the two peoples and presidents, which also links them to the past and present and directs their viewpoints toward the horizons of strong pan-Arab cooperation between the two fraternal peoples and countries.

Answering a question, Al-Sharif said: President Husni Mubarak considers Syria his own country, which he can visit any time. President Hafiz al-Asad also considers Egypt his own country, and he can meet with President Mubarak any time. President Mubarak has said we are citizens of a single country who carry a single identity and citizenship. The only unity witnessed [in the Arab world] in contemporary history is that of Syria and Egypt.

Answering a question, Al-Sharif explained: The fields of joint action between the two countries are boundless, and a new phase will begin. These next few days will witness efforts to improve and consolidate these relations and cooperation in all fields so they will become strong within the framework of normal relations between the two fraternal countries. Answering another question, Al-Sharif said: Presidents Mubarak and Al-Asad have their viewpoints, and what we have started transcends diplomatic relations and normal relations, which will be achieved during the coming phases within the framework of joint action between the two countries and joint coordination in all fields—political, economic, and social.

Answering another question, he said: We consider the Egyptian and Syrian media to be one and the same. Since I discussed this with my brother, the information minister in fraternal Syria, there will be information coordination in news agencies, television, and other fields because, as I said, our media are one and the same. God willing, there will be major media action. [sentence as received]

Answering another question, he said: Joint Arab action will benefit both countries and the entire Arab nation in the age of economic blocs and world political developments. There will be a united Europe in 1992. It therefore will be necessary to have Arab action based on strong foundations, cooperation and integration in development plans, and on economic, industrial agricultural, development, and cultural cooperation. We are late indeed in catching up with these rapid developments in the world. I therefore say this new phase of action between Syria and Egypt will benefit both countries and the Arab nation.

Information Minister Muhammad Salman also made a statement to journalists, in which he said: In fact, the relations between Syria and Egypt are great and historic ones. These historic relations joined the two leaders Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak in a single republic, single region, and single army. Their friendship grew during this historic moment through which our nation is passing, and they employed that moment to serve the people's march in both countries at this phase. On that basis, my brother and friend Safwat al-Sharif came carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to his brother, President Hafiz al-Asad. Safwat al-Sharif also will convey a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother, President Husni Mubarak. The two of them are determined to improve the relationship between the two countries in a manner that will serve the march of this nation and achieve its aspirations and hopes in its forthcoming fateful battle. Therefore we in both countries are determined to improve that relationship in all fields to serve the march and interests of this people.

Answering a question, Salman said: Naturally, just as Safwat al- Sharif came as an envoy of President Husni Mubarak, an envoy will be sent by President Hafiz al-Asad with a message to his brother President Husni Mubarak. All these messages and progressive steps aim to improve this relationship and put it on its correct course.

Answering another question, Salman said: Naturally, when both leaders feel there is a need for a meeting, they will arrange one.

Al-Sharif arrived in Damascus this morning and was received by Information Minister Muhammad Salman and senior Information Ministry officials.

Al-Sharif made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he said: I came to fraternal Syria carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to his brother, President Hafiz al-Asad.

He added: This visit coincides with the positive development witnessed by the entire Arab nation through this Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement and reconciliation, which began since the two leaders met in Casablanca. Contacts and consultations continued, and the recent contact between the two leaders had positive results, which we all felt.

Al-Sharif continued: During the telephone conversation between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak, it was agreed President Mubarak will send a special envoy with a message to President Hafiz al-Asad. Here I am, carrying that message.

Al-Sharif concluded his statement by saying: God willing, we hope we always will march on the path of

joint Arab action, of the struggle our two peoples began, and on the path of common understanding between Presidents Mubarak and Al-Asad.

'Joy' Over Relations Cited

JN1512213489 Damascus Voice of Arab Egypt in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Dear listeners, in confronting threats to our Arab nation and those posed by the Zionist plot, Syria always has been most concerned to apply and use Arab efforts and to strengthen and unite Arab ranks out of a sense of the dimensions of these dangers and threats and to ward them off.

Syria always has longed for unity and solidarity. Syria—leadership and people—always has been a prime example of sacrifice and giving for the sake of unity and solidarity. This nation [words indistinct] to [word indistinct] the multi-faceted attack and its schemes. In the absence of unity and solidarity, our Zionist enemy, and before it the imperialist forces that bickered like dogs over our nation, managed to strike us, defeat us, and weaken our steadfastness and confrontation.

The moral here is famous, known by young and old. Its policy has become that of divide and rule. This policy was followed and practiced, and there are many witnesses. We have seen them, felt their scalding fire, and felt, as we still do, their bitter and biting taste. [words indistinct] fabricated wars on the sidelines, drained our energy in many arenas, especially in those that are more sensitive and danger-prone, which we call the confrontation lines.

Naturally, since no one ignores the fact events here are affected by events there, the ripples were reflected—if we may use the term—into each and every one of our houses. It impoverished us all. Iraq's fabricated war with Iran depleted us all. It obstructed our confrontation of the Israeli enemy and its schemes. We were pained when other Arab countries were preoccupied in crises and disputes that sidetracked them from the real crisis—for which we are suffering—of confronting the enemy. Through their tools the Zionists are trying to implement this conspiracy—which has hurt us and still does—in Lebanon, to partition and fragment it and make it the weak point, the thorn in the Arab side, in the mature Arab wall of steadfastness.

The Zionist enemy has managed to infiltrate the Lebanese arena through agent tools, which are alien to the will of the people and the nation. Through these agents, it wants to ensure fragmentation and partition and thwart aspirations for unity and solidarity.

To reach their peace, the Arabs must be strong and united in policies and action. These words of President Hafiz al-Asad express true understanding of all the fine lines that concern the Arabs and the Arab cause. The most important element of strength, as his excellency said, is unity. Its achievement is self-assertion and affirmation of identity. Syria's belief in unity is very strong and cannot and will not be shaken by a passing setback. The unity of the Arab nation arises from natural law. It is an urgent necessity under such circumstances as surround us, dangers which threaten us, and schemes the enemy is devoted to implementing.

Today, more than ever, we need unity and solidarity. Perhaps the joy expressed by the Egyptian Arabs upon arrival in Damascus—to rejoin what had been severed—which was received in equal measure by our Syrian Arab people, also is an expression of the feeling of strength. It is like catching a ray of hope to unite confrontation and deepen the will to continue the struggle until the conspiracy is thwarted and victory is won.

Press Views Enhanced Ties

JN1712083589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria and Egypt are the Heart and Strength of the Arab Body," the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms in today's editorial that those following the very important political developments that surfaced on the Arab scene in the aftermath of the October war of liberation, as well as the results and realities produced by these developments, will find it easy to identify the new strategy designed and used by the enemies of the Arab nation to reply to the Arab resurgence initiated in the seventies—the resurgence crowned during the war of liberation by an effective solidarity that was a source of concern to the archenemy of our nation. The paper adds: Hence, the enemy's strategy sought to strike at Arab solidarity and create a permanent crack among the fraternal states in general and between Syria and Egypt in particular, considering that these two states constitute the heart and strength of the Arab body, which is capable of achieving great things once cooperation and coordination are achieved and cohesion is realized between them.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: The crack actually was created. However, this crack was not permanent, as the heart cannot desert the body. Besides, the blood that has irrigated the soil of Sinai and the Golan cannot turn into water. Moreover, the history of common struggle binding Syria to Egypt, the two fraternal states, can in no way be forgotten, considering there is a danger jeopardizing the Arab nation's causes, and that the two fraternal states have been leading the efforts to defend these causes since the fifties.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: The enemies of our nation wagered on the continuation of estrangement. They attempted to consecrate this estrangement through various means. However, their wager was and will remain a losing one, simply because Arab unity is an asset. Furthermore, if successive developments in the Arab arena preclude unity, Arab solidarity remains close

at hand. And this solidarity can elicit a decisive reply to the strategy of the enemies who have wagered on fragmenting Arab ranks. The militant duty dictates this solidarity be achieved so the Arabs can project a unified stance before the world and in the face of the enemies who are lying in wait for Arabism and Arab causes.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH tackles the same issue and affirms the importance of Syrian-Egyptian ties and the witnessed enhancement of them. The paper adds: This enhancement is based on the firmly established principles that over the years have governed these fraternal ties to serve the objectives and aspirations of Arabs everywhere and every time.

The paper adds: We might be confirming the firmly established historical principles that have governed these ties in old and contemporary Arab history when we affirm the importance of bolstering and upgrading the ties binding Syria and Egypt, the two fraternal states, in the interest of their Arab people. Besides, such an enhancement of ties also will serve the interests of the Arab nation and people in general. The interests of the two peoples actually were served by a previous enhancement of ties. And this enhancement of ties achieved amazing results that had their positive impact on the two countries, resulting in progress and success on various levels by the two states.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: Out of an awareness of the gravity of the responsibilities entailed, the magnitude of the dangers looming over the Arab nation, and a firm awareness of its increasingly important role, as well as of Egypt's role, Syria will spare no effort or endeavor to achieve the Arabs' objectives of freedom, independence, and desired grand unity. We always experience feelings of extreme happiness when we meet Egyptian nationals. This is the rule rather than the exception. Besides, the ties binding the Arabs of both Syria and Egypt are deep-rooted; and this is substantiated by past and contemporary history. Leader Al-Asad once made a statement to this effect.

Diplomat Escapes Assassination Attempt in Belgium

LD1612164289 Brussels Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] The police confirmed Mr (Fadhil), first secretary of the Syrian Embassy in Brussels, this morning escaped an attempted assassination in Brussels. Two grenades, one of which had a partially withdrawn pin, were aimed toward the chassis of the car. The grenade could have been completely activated by the car's vibrations but was not. The Syrian Embassy revealed no one has claimed responsibility for the attempt.

Report Says Syria Responsible for Mu'awwad Death

JN1712103289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] The weekly magazine LE POINT in its new edition has reported secret agencies in France and other Western countries have concluded Syria is responsible for the assassination of former Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad. The magazine says Mu'awwad's family also is certain Syria is behind the assassination, because its location was under the comprehensive supervision of the Syrian Army.

In connection with this, political sources in Beirut said Lebanese security forces have information indicating the existence of a plan to assassinate a number of civilian and political Lebanese figures in the two sides of Beirut. Sources added this information indicates the existence of two networks tasked with these assassinations, which also might affect some foreign diplomats in Lebanon.

Ba'th, Lebanese Progressive Party Officials Meet

JN1712142489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Durayd Yaghi, deputy president of the Lebanese Socialist Progressive Party for external affairs. They discussed the fraternal relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Progressive Socialist Party in Lebanon and their role to bolster national action, which aims to help Lebanon regain its unity and independence and assert its Arab character by implementing the national reconciliation document.

The meeting also revolved around developments in the Lebanese arena and helping the Lebanese legitimacy—represented by the Lebanese president and the national reconciliation government—to remove obstacles facing its march and the spread of its authority over all Lebanese territories, represented by 'Awn's rebellion.

They also discussed other issues related to both parties' activities on Arab and international levels and coordinating their stands in a manner serving their joint struggle.

On his part, Yaghi praised Syria's support for Lebanon, its people, and nationalist forces. He emphasized the fraternal ties between the Lebanese Arab people and Syria and its people. He said: We highly praise that role under the militant president, Hafiz al-Asad.

Khaddam Meets Tripartite Committee's Ibrahimi

JN1612204089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at 1800 received Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab tripartite committee envoy. During the meeting, Khaddam and Ibrahimi reviewed the results of the recent tour made by the Arab tripartite committee's foreign ministers to a number of capitals.

Khaddam Receives U.S. Congressional Delegation

JN1612181989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, received at 1100 this morning U.S. Congressman Mr Douglas Wayne Owens and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in Lebanon and in the Middle East.

Al-Shar' Talks With Ibrahimi, U.S. Congressman

JN1612120489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] In Damascus, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has received Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general and envoy of the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon. The talks concerned the situation in Lebanon and the tripartite committee's contacts during its latest tour—contacts aimed at surmounting obstacles to the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement on Lebanon. Mr al-Shar' also received this morning U.S. Congressman Douglas Wayne Owens. The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting they discussed the international situation, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and prospects for convening the international peace conference on the Middle East.

Paper Cited on 'Numerous Options' To End 'Mutiny'

JN1712090589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Legitimate Authority Holds the Cards," the newspaper TISHRIN affirms in its editorial that 'Awn has nothing to do with Lebanon and its Christians. The paper adds: If there is any danger threatening the Christians, it is the danger of 'Awn and no one else. Otherwise, how would one interpret the isolation of East Beirut from the rest of Lebanon and the imposition of dictatorial rule there at a time when all circumstances are ripe for an intra-Lebanese accord, a more harmonious coexistence, for removing all checkpoints and crossing points, and for building a future Lebanon devoid of fear and tyranny?

TISHRIN adds: 'Awn's enclave only constitutes 15 percent of Lebanon's area. In contrast, the legitimate authority controls 85 percent of the country's area and population. The Christian brothers residing outside 'Awn's enclave are not less important than those who are suffering from the terrorism of the military clique. They all have declared their allegiance to the legitimate authority. Hence, we safely can say the legitimate authority holds most of the cards. It has numerous options. It can give itself more time to tackle the mutiny crisis, considering the mutiny cannot last for long and the mutineers will be forced sooner or later to succumb and back away in the face of the legitimate authority, particularly when this authority instills in the citizens' hearts hope for the future and confidence in the Lebanon of tomorrow—the Lebanon permeated by justice and equality.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: The legitimate authority's efforts to avoid bloodshed should not be construed as submission to the mutiny and acceptance of the fait accompli. There is no world state that can accept mutiny on its territory. Besides, the legitimate Lebanese authority has the abilities and capabilities that can ensure an end to the abnormal situation in East Beirut and reunify it.

Afghanistan

Keshtmand, Wakil Congratulate CSSR Counterparts

LD1512100389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text]. Kabul, Dec. 14, BAKHTAR—On behalf of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan a congratulatory message addressed to His Excellency Marian Calfa on his election as chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia has been communicated to Prague.

Meanwhile, 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan has also sent a congratulatory message to His Excellency Jiri Dienstbier on his election as foreign minister of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia to that country.

Oruzgan Province Governor Dies After Attack

BK1612151489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the governor of Oruzgan Province died after he was seriously injured during a mujahidin attack on the provincial capital. The Afghan Interim Government's news agency, MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], says the mujahidin have intensified their attack on Kabul forces in Qandahar Province. As a result, 12 soldiers were killed and more than 30 injured. They also destroyed a tank belonging to the Kabul regime. The agency reports the mujahidin attacked security posts in Herat Province and destroyed the (Nur Ahmad) post and captured eight militia members.

Supreme Command Announcement on Laghman Defenses

LD1612172989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Announcement of the Supreme Command of the Afghan Armed Forces dated 16 December 1989]

[Text] According to reports we have received, a number of armed extremist groups and Saudi Wahhabis have concentrated around Meterlam, the capital of Laghman Province, in order to kill people, steal and rob, disrupt peace and security, prevent the transportation of supplies from Meterlam to Nangarhar, and block the Kabul-Jalalabad highway.

The Supreme Command of the Afghan Armed forces announces to our compatriots that sub-units of the Armed Forces stationed in Laghman Province are cooperating with the courageous people of Laghman; together they are prepared to repulse and foil the attacks on their homes by the Saudi Wahhabis and armed opposition groups.

Our brave Muslim people are confident that local commanders of armed opposition groups who think responsibly about peace in their province will support the people of Laghman and help foil the criminal deeds of these destructive groups who have come to Laghman Province from other regions to perpetrate subversive actions.

The men of the State Security Department of Laghman Province who are eligible for discharge have sent a message to the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces. This message reads in part:

At this sensitive time when the independence, territorial integrity, and national security of our proud country are threatened by evil conspiracies of the people's enemies, and although we are eligible for discharge from the State Security Department of Laghman Province, we recognize our humane duty and will not ask for a discharge despite the completion of our sacred term of military service. We will continue voluntarily to serve the Armed Forces to restore peace and security in the country and repulse the invasion and aggression of the Pakistani militarists, Saudi Wahhabis, and the extremists protected by them. Our patriotic duty will end only when no guns are fired in our free-born country and no family mourns the loss of their sons and beloved ones.

'Extremists' Missiles Kill 10, Injure 27 in Kabul

LD1712140889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] The Pakistan-supported extremists today fired three surface-to-surface long-range U.S. missiles on residential areas of Kabul city, committed a shocking and unforgivable crime against our Muslim compatriots, and revealed their sinister faces once again.

The BIA military section reports that these missiles, which were launched in accordance with the state terrorism plans of the United States and Pakistan by the Tofan extremist group on the instructions of Sher Alam, a ringleader of the Sayyaf-e Wahhabi extremist group from Paghman District, 10 of our compatriots were martyred and 27 were injured. Women, children, and elderly people are among those who are martyred or injured. The injured were transferred to hospitals immediately and were admitted for serious treatment or observation. The death toll could be higher then these figures. The reports adds that these missiles also inflicted material damage on our compatriots.

Mujahidin Capture 5 Kabul Regime Security Posts

BK1712154489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have captured 5 Kabul regime security posts and killed 20 soldiers of the militia in the area between (Tangi Jharu)

and Pol-e Charkhi. According to MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN, the Afghan Interim Government's news agency, the mujahidin also attacked the Kabul regime's newly created posts in Deh Sabz and Baghram Districts and hit two tanks.

The news agency adds that mujahidin have destroyed an important military center of the Kabul regime at the historic (Shahabuddin) fort in Herat city, killing all soldiers of the militia.

The mujahidin also repulsed the Kabul regime forces' attack on their positions southwest of Kabul, killed 20 officers, and hit 3 tanks and 5 military vehicles during the operation.

BAKHTAR Details Recent Military Situation

LD1512100489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 14, BAKHTAR—In the past three days, the armed extremists, Pakistani militarymen and Saudi Wahhabis fired with heavy weapons on the security posts in Nangarhar, Paktia, Qandahar and Laghman Provinces as a result of which one Afghan soldier was killed and six injured. In a counterattack by the Armed Forces, 263 enemies were either killed or injured, reports BAKHTAR military section quoting an authoritative source of the Armed Forces.

In Nangarhar Province, the armed extremists, Pakistani militarymen and Saudi Wahhabis fired in the past three days with heavy weapons on several security posts injuring two army personnel. In response, the position of the enemy came under air and artillery attacks by the detachments of the Armed Forces there killing or injuring 111 persons from the enemy joint forces. Similar action was taken against the enemy in Paktia Province as a result of which 74 extremists were either killed or injured. Meanwhile, one army personnel was killed and three injured in the past three days.

In Qandahar Province, the extremists resorted to the same action which obliged the Army detachments there to make a counter-attack killing or injuring 26 extremists including Peroz, one of their ringleaders during the past three days.

According to another report, the armed extremists fired with heavy weapons on the residential areas of Mehtarlam city and several security posts in Laghman Province as a result of which two children and one Army personnel were injured. In a counterattack by the armed forces 52 war-mongers were either killed or injured, during the said period.

India

Singh Affirms 'Special Status' for Kashmir

BK1512132089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has declared that the country's territorial integrity and unity will not be compromised while settling the problems in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Addressing his first formal news conference as prime minister in New Delhi today, he said his government does not want to solve any problem in a mechanical manner by depending solely on administrative measures. It would harness the support of the people at large to resolve them. He pointed out that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is delicate and said his government is not in favor of any precipitate action. The government is assessing the entire situation and the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister has been called for consultation.

The prime minister made it clear that Article 370 of the Constitution granting a special status to Jammu and Kashmir is a historical necessity. Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh said he does not think that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been alienated from the national mainstream. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Situation in Kashmir State

Army Asked 'To Stand By'

BK1512131089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir cabinet met for about 3 hours in the winter capital, Jammu, today and reviewed the law and order situation in the Kashmir Valley. No details of the deliberations have officially been given. Later, the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, along with some other ministers and the state chief secretary, Mr Moosa Raza, left for New Delhi. They would call on the prime minister and other central leaders and apprise them of the situation in the state and the steps taken in this regard.

In Jammu and Kashmir, with the death of two more persons in Anantnag today, the death toll in police firing has risen to four. Two persons died and 15 were injured in Anantnag since this morning after a mob indulged in large-scale violence. Public properties including many vehicles were damaged in Shupiyan town of (Phulwana) District. Five persons were injured when police had to resort to firing to drive away miscreants who attempted to ransack a police station. An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent that the Army has been asked to stand by to meet any eventuality.

Violence Leaves 7 Dead, 50 Injured

BK1512160589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Excerpt] In Jammu and Kashmir, large-scale violence has claimed 7 lives and left at least 50 people injured. The Army staged a flag march in Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramula, Sopor, and Shupiyan in Pulwama District where indefinite curfew continues. The Army is assisting the civil authorities in maintaining law and order in all these areas.

Our Srinagar correspondent reports that with the death of five more persons, the toll rose to seven today. Deaths took place in Anantnag and Shupiyan in police firing. The police had to resort to firing after a mob indulged in large-scale violence. Public properties, including many vehicles, were damaged in Shupiyan town. A police station was ransacked by some miscreants who heavily pelted stones on the police. In Srinagar, one incident of cross-firing and a few incidents of stone pelting in some downtown areas were reported. Two persons were killed in Sopor and Baramula yesterday. [passage omitted]

High-Level Meeting Held

BK1612045189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, had a meeting with the union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, in New Delhi last night. Dr Abdullah is understood to have apprised the minister about the latest situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Dr Abdullah, who arrived in New Delhi along with his cabinet colleagues and chief secretary, drove straight to the home minister's residence last night. They are reported to have had a 2 and ½ hour long meeting discussing the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Dr Abdullah is likely to meet the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, later in the day today.

Talks Continue; Situation 'Peaceful'

BK1612161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] The chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Farooq Abdullah, had a second round of talks with the union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, in New Delhi this evening on the situation in the state. Five of his cabinet colleagues also took part in the discussions. Dr Abdullah, who flew in yesterday evening, met the home minister soon after his arrival and had detailed discussions about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. He apprised the home minister about the measures being taken by his government to tone up the administration. He also assured the center that he will deal with the situation firmly.

The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent understands that the home minister assured Dr Farooq Abdullah of all assistance from the center to deal with the problem. Meanwhile, curfew in Sopor, Baramula, Anantnag, Srinagar, and Shupiyan towns in Kashmir valley is continuing. The Army is assisting the civil authorities in maintaining law and order in these five towns.

According to an official spokesman, barring some incidents of arson and stone throwing, the overall situation in the entire valley today remained, by and large, peaceful. A few buildings were set on fire in Kulgam and (Kutwada) early this morning. In Bijbiara town, miscreants indulged in heavy stone pelting. Nine of them were arrested. The spokesman said the situation throughout the valley is well under control. He described as baseless a report that the entire valley has been put under curfew and 150 persons were injured yesterday.

Paramilitary Forces Troops Sent

BK1712082789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the curfew-bound areas of Sopur, Baramula, Anantnag, Srinagar, and Shupiyan remained peaceful last night. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere in these areas. The Army continues to patrol these five towns. According to an official spokesman, the situation throughout Kashmir valley is well under control and by and large peaceful.

Meanwhile, PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA], quoting official sources in Srinagar, says a large contingent of paramilitary forces were flown yesterday into the Kashmir valley following a decision by the authorities to take stern action against anti-national elements and to ensure full security arrangements.

The Congress-I and the National Conference have decided to continue their ruling alliance in Jammu and Kashmir with a view to strengthen the secular and national forces in the state. According to PTI, the decision was taken after the state chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, held two rounds of discussions with the Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Both sides felt that the Kashmir situation should be viewed above the narrow partisan interests and all secular and nationalist forces should join hands to face the challenge posed by the divisive forces in the state.

More on 'Antireservation' Moves in Uttar Pradesh

BK1512132289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Rail traffic between Delhi and Kanpur was disrupted today as the antireservation agitation spread to other towns in Uttar Pradesh. Students blocked the rail traffic at Jinjak and Rura railway stations, resulting in late running of trains on the Delhi-Kanpur route.

Protest Spreads to 12 Districts

BK1512161889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, incidents of arson, stone-throwing, and road blockade by antireservation activists have been reported from 12 districts. According to an official spokesman, groups of students indulged in heavy stone throwing on vehicles and police personnel. Ten policemen were injured. The police opened fire in self-defense in which four persons were injured. The spokesman said that stray incidents of arson, stone throwing, and damaging of public property were also reported today from Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Agra, and Varanasi. One student who was injured in police firing in Jodhpur on Wednesday last succumbed to his injuries in the hospital today.

Railway authorities say that many trains were affected on the Kanpur-Tundla route. All educational institutions in Kanpur have been closed till the end of this month. In Sultanpur, these will remain closed till the 25th of this month.

The Lok Dal has expressed concern over the antireservation stir in Uttar Pradesh. In a statement in New Delhi today, the party general secretary, Mr M.R. Khan, urged the state government to control the stir which may lead to serious consequences.

In Rajasthan, all higher secondary schools and colleges are being closed from tomorrow. An official spokesman told the All-India Radio correspondent in Jaipur today that the order will not be applicable to the engineering and medical colleges. Our correspondent understands that the decision has been taken in view of the antireservation stir by the students.

Congress-I Leader, 8 Others Killed in Punjab

BK1512163189 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] A senior Punjab Congress-I leader and eight others have been killed in terrorist violence in the state since last night. Congress-I leader, Mr Jagrup Singh Gill, and his two security guards were shot dead by the terrorists in Ludhiana District last night. Mr Gill, a former MLA [member of the legislative assembly], was the president of the Ludhiana District Rural Congress-I Committee. Six people were killed in other incidents across the state. In Jullundur District, security forces arrested a hard-core terrorist, Harjit Singh.

The former prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has condemned the killing of Mr Gill. In a message to the bereaved family, Mr Gandhi said Mr Gill's sacrifice for the cause of national unity will always be remembered.

Government To Seek Vote of Confidence 21 Dec

BK1712085489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] The ninth Lok Sabha begins its first session tomorrow. The senior most member, Professor M.G. Ranga, will conduct the proceedings as pro tem speaker till a speaker is elected and will administer the oath to the new members. The veteran parliamentarian will be sworn in by the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, shortly before the session begins. The election of the speaker is slated for Tuesday [19 December] evening.

Rajya Sabha is also sitting for its new session from Wednesday. This will begin with an address by the president to members of both the Houses. Our correspondent says that parting with tradition, the president's address will be broadcast live for the first time. Our correspondent adds that the National Front government will seek a vote of confidence of the Lok Sabha Thursday, the 21st. This is being done as the president has stipulated that the new government will have to prove its majority on the floor of the House within 30 days of its formation early this month.

Though it is going to be a short session, several important bills of far-reaching significance are to be introduced for consideration of Parliament. These relate to the grant of autonomy to All India Radio and Doordarshan [television], establishment of the institution of lokpal [ombudsman] for checking corruption at high places, and extending reservations for Scheduled Castes, Tribes, and Anglo-Indians, in Parliament and state legislatures for another 10 years.

Iran

Further Reportage on Majles Mid-Term Elections

Massive Turnout for Elections

LD1512123889 Tehran IRNA in English 1049 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—Polling for the Majles by-elections started in the capital and five other cities of the country at 7:00 hours [0330 GMT] today morning.

Braving cold weather and a steady drizzle in most cities, people massively turned out to elect the representatives of their choice in places as far apart as Tehran, Kashan, Kerman, Karaj, Bandar Torkman-Kordkuy (Mazandaran) and Kuhdasht-Chegini (Lorestan). All citizens above 15 years of age are eligible to cast votes. Of the 117 candidates who enrolled for elections to the nine vacant seats in the parliament, 52 were initially approved by the Interior Ministry.

Later, the supervisory boards cleared another 20 after due scrutiny, bringing to 72 the number of aspirants for the Islamic Consultative Assembly. However, 8 of the candidates withdrew before the polling started.

Of the remaining 64 candidates, 38 are contesting the four seats from Tehran constituency, which were left vacant when the four MP's along with the Kashan representative were appointed to governmental posts after the new Cabinet of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was formed last September.

The MP from Kerman passed away shortly after the Majles third term elections, while seats from Bandar Torkman-Kordkuy and Kuhdasht-Chegini remain vacant as the competency of those elected from the two places during the last general elections was not approved by the Guardian Council. The Karaj representative resigned from the Majles because of difference of opinion.

In the capital, 2,500 polling stations have been set up, with another 260 mobile booths arranged for those unable to come to the stations.

The polling will last for 10 hours, and if reasons arise, the time limit may be extended by the Interior Ministry, which supervises the elections.

Majles Election Results

NC1612063689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] We received a report on the mid-term elections a few moments ago from election headquarters. The National Election Headquarters has announced that the mid-term elections for the third session of the Majles is finished in six constituencies without any difficulties and with complete calm.

On the basis of a report published by the National Election Headqaurters, the results of elections in Karaj, Kerman, Kashan, Kuhdasht, and Kordkuy constituencies are as follows;

In Karaj constituency Mr ['Abbas 'Ali] Zali received 45,401 votes out of the total 101,944 votes cast.

In Kerman constituency Mr Asadollah Razavi received 29,032 votes out of the total 59,508 votes cast.

In Kashan constituency Mr Mahmud Jamali received 48,516 votes out of the total 97,652 votes cast.

In Kuhdasht constituency Mr 'Ali Shahrokhi received 37,792 votes out of the total 73,167 votes cast.

The report states that in Kordkuy constituency, out of the total 68,568 votes cast, Mr Mohammad-Baqer Davudi and Mr Yusef Basanjideh received 18,196 and 16,192 votes respectively. Thus, a second round of elections was held in this constituency.

The results of the votes cast in Tehran constituency will be announced as soon as they are received.

9 Leaders, Totals Listed

LD1612114789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] With regard to the results of the votes counted in the Majles elections, the country's election headquarters announced:

From a total of 1,317 ballot boxes counted so far and a total of 351,963 votes cast, the following results are noted, listed in the order of highest number of votes received:

Mr Movahedi-Kermani, 165,082 votes;
Mr Asgarowladi, 125,525 votes;
Ms Behruzi, 124,355 votes;
Mr Mohtashemi, 115,735 votes;
Mr Morteza Nabavi, 103,103 votes;
Mr Sarhadizadeh, 94,904 votes;
Mr Behzad Nabavi, 92,461 votes;
Mr Akrami, 81,744 votes; and
Mr Mahjub, 53,505 votes.

People Asked To Report Violations

LD1412111689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] The Central Inspectorate Committee of the Majles mid-term elections, stationed in the Interior Ministry, has issued a statement asking the people to report any violation of the elections by dialing the telephone numbers 656709 and 657009.

Daily Cited on Western Policy

LD1712101189 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—An Iranian daily said in its editorial Sunday that the future would prove "West's malicious approach to Iranian politics and issues".

Commenting on the Friday Majles by-elections and election to the Majles of the former interior minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi, the English daily TEHRAN TIMES said that it is very hard for the West to digest that Mohtashemi's election would "only enrich the Majles debates and assist decision makings".

"Western media very vociferously touted that if the hardline candidates, especially Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi, win the by-elections, the Majles will soon turn to be a big hurdle on the way for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his government," the English daily said. The editorial stressed that existence of differences in opinion among figures on the best ways to approach country's problem was something natural, but this "does in no way keep those who believe in the Islamic Republic and the lofty goals set for this Muslim society from fully cooperating with one another."

It added that, "the Western swaddling clothes of miscalculations will never fit political realities in Tehran."

The Western media interpret the slightest difference in position takings by Iranian officials as a solid proof of a "pitched relentless battle between the advocates of different stands," said the daily. "It should be very surprising to the West and running counter to their overstretched analysis to know for instance that the hardline majma'e ruhaniyun mobarez [Combatant Clergy Association] has very warm and friendly relations with the person of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani," concluded the editorial.

* Majles Candidates, Affiliations Announced

90OI0081A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Nov 89 p 12

[Text] The names of 22 Majles candidates for the mid-term elections of the Third Majles in the Tehran electoral district were announced.

Yesterday morning, after completion of the competence review for mid-term Majles election candidates, Mr Lotfollah Sagharvayi, Ministry of the Interior election staff supervisor, announced the names of 22 Tehran District candidates and 21 candidates from the four districts of Kashan, Kuhdasht va Dawreh Chagini, Kordkuy, and Bandar-e Kerman whose competence had been certified by the executive councils.

The Ministry of the Interior election staff supervisor asked those whose names were not given in the notice published by the executive councils and who wish to protest this matter to submit their complaints to the Central Supervisory Council or the Province Supervisory Council between today and the administrative expiration date, 9 Azar [30 November].

He said: The complaints of candidates whose names were not listed with the certified candidates will be reviewed within 5 days. After the publication of the names of the candidates whose competence has been certified after reexamination are published, the certified candidates may campaign until 24 hours prior to the elections.

In conclusion, he announced the following names of candidates whose competence has been certified, and he added that the names of the Karaj district candidates have not yet been announced and will be announced later.

Tehran Electoral District

1 - Seyyed Mohammad Hasan Ayatollahi, son of Mohammad Kazem
2 - Mansureh Akhavan, daughter of Reza
3 - Seyyed Kazem Akrami, son of Seyyed Yusef
4 - Zabihollah Bakhshi, son of Mohammad 'Ali
5 - Robabeh Rafi'i-Tari, daughter of Farajollah
6 - Maryam Za'farani-Behruz, daughter of Moharram 'Ali
7 - Abolqasem Sarhadizadeh, son of 'Ali Akbar
8 - Abu'ali Shari'ati-Niasor, son of Mehdi
9 - Habibollah 'Asgar Owladi Mosalman, son of Hoseyn
10 - 'Ali Hoseyn Farrokhi, son of Gholam 'Abbas
11 - Mostafa Qorbani-Moqaddam, son of Hasan
12 - Hoseyn Qalich-Khan, son of Mohammad
13 - Hoseyn Kan'ani-Moqaddam, son of Hasan
14 - Mararna-Gorji, son of Ahmad
15 - Morteza Mehri, son of Asghar
16 - Mohammad 'Ali Movahhedi-Kermani, son of 'Abbas
17 - 'Alireza Mahjub, son of Gholamreza
18 - Hamid Reza Musazadeh son of 'Abdol Rahman
19 - Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi-Pur, son of Seyyed Hoseyn
20 - Behzad Nabavi, son of Hasan
21 - Seyyed Morteza Nabavi, son of Seyyed Ahmad
22 - Gholam 'Ali Hadi-Pur, son of Zeyn ol-Abeddin

It is necessary to mention that 69 people registered to participate in the elections in the Tehran electoral district, 22 of whom were certified by the executive council.

Our correspondent reports that the names of the candidates from the four districts of Kashan, Kuhdasht va Dowreh Chagini, Kordkuy, and Torkaman were printed in yesterday's newspaper.

Publication of Karaj Candidate Names

Karaj—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent: The names of the Karaj electoral district Majles candidates were announced yesterday afternoon.

Our correspondent reports that the Karaj municipality election staff, at 1730 hours, at the end of its final meeting yesterday, made available the names of the final certified competent Majles candidates for the Karaj electoral district to the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI's office in this city. The names of the announced candidates are:
1 - Mostafa Ahmadiyeh
2 - 'Abbas 'Ali Zali
3 - Mahmud Hakimiyan
4 - Mehdi Kord
5 - Seyyed Mashallah Musavi
6 - Abolqasem Tabataba'i
7 - Mehdi Sadra
8 - Hamzeh Shafi'i Kolayeh
9 - Zeyn ol-Abeddin Ja'far Salehi

List of Tehran Combatant Clergy [Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez-e Tehran] Candidates

The Tehran Combatant Clergy announced the names of its candidates in the midterm Majles elections.

Our correspondent reports that, last night, Hojjat ol-Eslam Kiyan-Arsi contacted him and said that the Tehran Combatant Clergy will support the following people in the midterm Majles elections:
1 - Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi, former minister of the interior
2 - Mr Engineer Behzad Nabavi, former minister of heavy industries
3 - Mr Abolqasem Sarhaddi-Zadeh, former minister of labor and social affairs

4 - Seyyed Kazem Akrami, former minister of education and training

He continued: Currently the Islamic Teacher's Societies of Iran and the Tehran Production, Service, and Technical Trade Guilds Societies have supported the Tehran Combatant Clergy's list of candidates, and the Office to Strengthen and Restore Unity of the Islamic Societies [Daftar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat-e Anjomanha-ye Eslami] of the Universities and High Schools will soon announce its views as well.

Probable List of Tehran Combatant Clergy [Jame'eh Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez-e [Tehran]

On the other hand, despite repeated contacts with the office of the Tehran Combatant Clergy, our correspondent was unable to get a list of the candidates selected by this society. Indications are, however, that the list of candidates will include:
Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahhedi-Kermani, former Majles deputy
Mr Habibollah 'Asgar Owladi Mosalman, former minister of commerce
Engineer Morteza Nabavi, former minister of post, telegraph, and telephone
Mrs Maryam Behruzi, former Majles deputy.

House of Workers

At the same time, it is said that Mr 'Alireza Mahjub, an active and distinguished member of the House of Workers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and a labor consultant to Engineer Musavi during his tenure as prime minister, can receive support from the House of Workers and the Islamic societies of the factories.

Majles Deputies Discuss Nabavi's Credentials

NC1512192589 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Dec 89 pp 2, 11

[Excerpt] During yesterday's open session of the Majles, four deputies delivered pre-agenda speeches. The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr Mohammad Salamati, Tehran deputy, who said in his speech:

We are on the eve of the midterm Majles elections and, God willing, these elections which will be held next Friday will be as healthy as the previous elections.

All those who love and are faithful to the revolution want the elections and similar events in the Islamic Republic of Iran to be carried out in a proper manner because this shows our system's strength. Unfortunately, however, some may not want this. They may intend to disrupt the elections, preventing proper elections from taking place. One cannot expect anything from this group. However, one would not expect that responsible and competent organs would want to do anything to mar the elections and damage public trust too.

Unfortunately, some organs have acted in this manner. The Tehran supervisory committee, the election supervisory committee selected by the Council of Guardians for the midterm elections, and the central supervisory committee unfortunately rejected the credentials of Mr Behzad Nabavi. Before the individual concerned was informed of this, others already knew about it and were talking about it. This news was heard at the Martyr Motahhari College and an attempt was made to exploit this issue [javvi ra ijad konand]. Of course, this matter is being brought up because it is not an ordinary matter. Had it been dealt with in an ordinary and legal way, then there would have been no problem. I repeat, however, that this is not an ordinary issue and it was dealt with in a different way. Of course I should state that as we are naming one of the candidates, and this dais is a public dais, this reference may be portrayed as a campaign effort. I am not discussing whether Mr Nabavi would be a useful member of the Majles or not; this will depend on the people's vote. The issue here is the way the candidacy of an individual was dealt with. We do not have anything else in mind and we are not discussing anything else. The issue is the fact that this was not an ordinary matter. What I am saying here is that the credentials of a person who was a minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran for 9 years were rejected. He was a person who, during his term of office as minister, was also the logistics deputy of the acting commander in chief. Before that he served in radio and television and on the central committee. After the revolution he served in the Mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution Organization and was among the members of this organization's central cadre. This organization offered outstanding services to the revolution and, before the revolution, had struggled against the accursed shah and the monarchy. This is happening at a time when not too long ago the Majles gave him a vote of confidence. It should also be stated that he is a candidate from the five groups which follow the imam's line and which also enjoy the support of the majority of officials. Such a person is rejected. On what charges? Charges such as the publication of a statement conveying congratulations on the revolution of the shah and the people. This is one of the accusations made against him. Later on it was revealed that it was Behzad Nabavi-Tabrizi who had published this statement. Now they come to exploit this issue in order to harm him. One other accusation was that he embezzled $166 million in connection with an agreement on the purchase of tractors from Romania—a deal the file on which has been closed. According to documents he was not involved in this at all and he has done nothing wrong. They have, however, come and propounded this issue. Or let us discuss the explosion at the prime minister's office when the imam stated that this was a plot against the forces that were faithful to the revoluton. With this accusation they force a person to resign.

These are all the reasons why this issue was not an ordinary one. It can mean that a large number of people who are faithful to the revolution—individuals who serve the people and the revolution—are discredited and

cannot do anything. So these people ask: If this is what I get for having served and gone through so much, then why should I work?

At any rate, once the executive committee has approved the competence of this person, it does not have the right to review and reject his credentials. The supervisory committee should only supervise and not review and state its views.

One can say that the only thing left is a political move by a faction—and naturally some people may not be aware of what is happening—against another faction. This may even be at the cost of ridiculing the Majles where the behavior of some persons is such as though it was not this Majles which had passed a vote of confidence in the person in question only a few months before. What do they intend to achieve by doing this? What will they gain by thrusting one person out of the scene and by crushing a faction? Why should they do this? Of course, there is only one person involved now. But later on it will be someone else's turn. Why should we lack a healthy approach to each other? Why? Why should we not have this kind of an approach so that we can ultimately gain power? In other words, they want to crush one person and one faction and then come and take all the power and the Majles into their hands. Why do you want to do this? Brother, why are you acting in this way? Why do you want to gain control of the Majles? Legislation is one of the duties of the Majles. Can you pass laws? Can you pass the taxation law with which you disagree in principle in a good way? You consider taxation to be opposed to the shari'a. You did not believe in cooperatives and said this is a communist phenomenon. You did not believe in joint ownership and said this is a communist phenomenon. Despite all these, do you still insist on doing what you want?

One should be able to do what one claims to be able to do. Is this not the same trend of thought that has so far prevented the labor law from being ratified?

The intention is to create an unfavorable atmosphere. This should be prevented and we should not allow this kind of atmosphere to be created. After all, it would be a pity if it were. Our system now enjoys considerable strength and we should preserve this. Why should we spoil this with our own hands?

The fact is that fortunately, the Council of Guardians has not yet stated its view and we expect this council to act more rapidly. Of course, it is only 4 or 5 days still, but they should have acted sooner. We hope that they will act in time. I would like to point out that I am not requesting any of the officials to react to this because this will be a specific demand. I definitely know, however, that the officials will adopt a positive approach—irrespective of whether this is what I want or not—and that the future will clarify things; and, God willing, the issue will be solved in a proper way and the same favorable atmosphere will prevail in the elections and in the Majles.

The next speaker was the Qom deputy, Mr Sadeq Khalkhali, who spoke as the second pre-agenda speaker. He said:

The management of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the leadership and the president shows that both have the competence to carry out this task, that the nation supports both of them, and that both are assets to the revolution and the country and should therefore be obeyed. But something that makes one curious is the 5-year development plan that the president has presented to the Majles. This is a very good plan. I have carefuly studied it and see that it is a comprehensive and convincing plan. But there are two underlying dangers which the deputies should study and point out. One emanates from foreign loans, which may turn us into a nation like Eygpt with its $50-, $60-, or $70-billion debt. And the other is the return of the corrupt and reactionary Western culture to the Islamic Republic of Iran. If we heed these two things, the rest of the points in the 5-year plan are more or less all right, will help the country to progress, and will assist in solving shortcomings. As you have seen, the situation is under control up to a point. Prices have fallen and, God willing, the people and the Majles will witness more price reductions.

The Yalta conference placed the yoke of military captivity on nations and plunged countries into captivity for 45 years. Now the Malta conference seeks to replace the Yalta conference and expand the culture of licentiousness in societies, and especially in Islamic and Arabic countries, so that it can thus achieve its wicked objectives. The new Islamic movement in the occupied territories has surprised and perplexed both the Jewish occupying executioner and the American executioner and bloodthirsty criminal which claims to support human rights and the United Nations, and hoists the banner of reform while approving the worst methods used by its rabid dogs—the Jewish soldiers—in the occupied territories. It vetoes any act propsed in the United Nations or anywhere else which is against the Jews in the occupied territories.

We should watch after the Islamic movement, which has gone beyond the framework of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and see to it that this movement continues. We have differences of taste in the Majles and in other organs. But this movement is an Islamic and Koranic movement. We should be the mentors of those behind this movement and place whatever we have at their disposal. In this way, they can continue their path and, ultimately, free themselves from the yoke of captivity placed on their necks by the Jews in the region or, actually, by America.

As far as Resolution 598 is concerned, I have repeatedly said that only through the garrisons of our [Islamic Revolution Guard] Corps and the combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran can this resolution be implemented. The more we delay, the further back we will go. This agreement should be implemented. We have accepted peace and do not support war. But in order to

reach that point we have to go through our garrisons. In other words, Resolution 598 should be implemented through our garrisons. When we look at this, when we remember our imam's remarks on the 20-million strong army, we see that we have the strength and we can procure the necessary arms. Then why should we not do so?

We are on the eve of the midterm elections for four candidates from Tehran and a few other candidates from some other towns. All the people and all the nation—men and women—should participate in these elections and the imam's will should not be forgotten.

It is only a few months since the imam left us, but his movement, his breath, and his spirit are still among us. In the same way that the imam, may God be pleased with him, considers participation in the elections a must, he considers the preservation of the respect of people a must too.

You cannot say, on the one hand, that the imam said one is a must but, on the other, we should trample on revolutionaries and disarm all of them so someone else can come to the Majles who will only say fortunately. [sentence as published]

It is shameful. Are we all dead? We are alive and we who fought against the shah's arbitrary dictatorship and went to prison are still the same people, and we strongly oppose dictatorship. This is our duty until our last breath.

We praise Modarres so much. Why? Because he was 50 kg of bones, flesh, and blood? No, Modarres was a person who, in the sensitive days when Reza Khan had gained popularity for himself and had created artificial security around himself, fought against him until death.

Those who are worthy like Modarres can tread the same path. I have a letter and document from the imam, may our spirits be sacrificed for him, which is the source of everything—our Majles, our movement, and our responsibility. I will read this for the gentlemen so that this document can shine brightly in the history of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The imam, in presence of Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, instructed Messrs Musavi-Ardabili, Musavi-Kho'iniha, and Ra'isi to investigate the explosion at the Prime Minister's Office.

The reason for having created inconvenience for the gentlemen is that a number of gentlemen have written a letter to me stating that they know these people. But the issue is not one of arresting a few people and sentencing them. The issue is the fact that people who are faithful to the revolution and to the Islamic Republic are set aside and others who oppose them are brought to power. Of course, from the very start of all these I had my suspicions and saw that every time someone tried to say something, he was immediately summoned. And this gentleman from Tehran or that gentleman from another place who were higher. [sentence as published] Mr Behzad Nabavi—as the imam clarifies later on—one day when there was talk of Mr Behzad Nabavi with the late Raja'i in this same room—pointing to the seat of Mr Kho'iniha—the late Raja'i, may God's blessings be on him, said that he knew Nabavi from the time when he was in prison and that he is a pious person. [sentence as published] From the very start I knew that there is a hand involved that wants to defame these people and they thought the matter would be looked into and end. [sentence as published] But now they feel the issue is reaching another point and is being brought up in the press. I have to know who these three people who have done these things are. Give me their names and I myself will investigate the matter. Islam has determined the fate of people who defame others in such a way. I should know what these people do and what their answer is. Have they done what they have done on the basis of belief and in order to carry out their shari'a duties (while these are contrary to these duties) or is spite involved, is an external factor involved? What I mean is that this dossier should be closed and set aside and these people should be identified. And I myself should investigate and find out who these people are.

After giving the necessary explanations to those present, the imam once again repeated his first remarks. One was that the dossier should be closed and the other was that he himself should investigate the matter. Those who who want to create problems for some people today will create problems for others tomorrow. Thus, the Islamic Republic will not find security. Therefore, this should be prevented right here.

This is what the imam said about closing the file and the explosion at the prime minister's office. We cannot deny the imam's words here and follow the words of someone else who does not have an inkling about the basics of the revolution.

But only God knows that we do not want to open closed doors. Several doors have been closed—the Hojjatiyeh Council, the Liberation Movement, the Islamic Republic Party, and others. No power in Iran can open these doors. But we do not want to open closed doors. We want to show the open doors to the people. We hope that the nation, under the noble guidance of the leadership and president who shoulder the responsibility of this nation, will continue their strong and zealous road so that people will be freed of their anxieties, God willing.

KEYHAN Interviews Former Minister Mohtashemi

NC1512164289 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
11 Dec 89 pp 18, 2

[Text] KEYHAN sent the candidates for the Majles the following four questions:
1. What previous experience have you had in the political and executive fields?
2. What is your assessment of the third Majles?
3. What in your view is the country's top priority?
4. What is your opinion of the 5-year plan?

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashemi, a candidate in the Majles midterm elections, sent KEYHAN the following answers to these questions.

[Signed] KEYHAN Political Department

Answer to Question One:

I was born in 1325 [1946] in Tehran and entered the seminary in 1340 [1961] after completing my school studies. On 4 Bahman 1340 [24 January 1961] I was arrested for disseminating literature opposing the White Revolution of the accursed Pahlavi regime.

I was also one of the main organizers of the political-religious sessions in Qom opposing the capitulation [preceding word in English] and exile of his eminence the imam (may God be pleased with him) to Turkey. In 1345 [1966] following the imam's exile, I went to Iraq where I remained, studying at the Najaf seminary, until the victory of the Islamic revolution. During those 10 years, I studied the religious commentaries of his eminence the imam and of martyr Mostafa Khomeyni.

I was a member of the central cell of the Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez outside the country in holy Najaf and I was twice arrested by the Iraqi Ba'th regime for the publication and distribution of works, books, and statements of the leader of the Islamic revolution.

I have also been active in Lebanon and other Islamic countries. I cooperated with the strugglers of these countries and had military training, especially with the Palestinian resistance cells, prior to the Islamic revolution.

I was also a member of the management office of the leader of the Islamic revolution in Paris, Qom, and Tehran, a member of the panel chosen by Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him) in charge of assessing the problems of the oppressed, and the imam's representative to the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. For a while I was also a member of the supervisory council of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During the years 1360-64 [1981-85] I served as the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Syria. In addition to attending to diplomatic duties relating to the ties between the two countries, I established Islamic groups in Lebanon and Palestine. I was the target of the fury of the oppressive powers and in a bomb explosion I lost a hand, an ear, and some fingers. From 1364-68 [1985-89] I was also the interior minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Answer to Question Two:

The Islamic Republic of Iran's system has three pillars: The judiciary, the legislature, and the executive. In other words, we have one legal system, one planning system, and one policy-making system in the Islamic Republic. Thus planning and policy-making are carried out by means of the approval of laws on various subjects. This means that we have a body called the Majles which is the base to which the tent of the Islamic Republic of Iran is pegged. The Majles decides the destiny of the system of values of Islam and the revolution, which then assumes a concrete form.

The executive and the judiciary are the country's executive bodies and should approve all the laws and regulations of the Majles. It is natural therefore that the Majles should enjoy a privileged and prestigious position in the Islamic Republic. With a correct policy, the Majles can propound the ways and means of synchronizing the principles of the revolution and implement them in tangible form in Islamic society; in other words, it can render them functional.

Therefore, the Majles is the fruit of the imam's labors. It is the embodiment of the same values and principles, objectives, and slogans propounded by the imam (may God be pleased with him) and is a concrete manifestation of these. The performance of the Islamic Majles in formulating laws and regulations in the past is an indication of its unanimity with the Islamic revolution.

The performance of the Majles, especially in its third tenure, was proof that of all the other government bodies, it is the closest to the line of the imam and his revolutionary spirit, which is on the lofty path in this regard. This is evident from the ratification of the various laws, plans, and bills which has taken place in the Majles during this time. Despite the factions which were exerting pressure, and the social factions and certain circles which had the power to thwart the approval of certain bills in the Majles, we perceive that in the end the imam (may God be pleased with him) approved these laws and bills. When a difference of opinion appeared between the Majles and the Council of Guardians, we witnessed quite a few occasions when the imam extended his support to these bills.

The imam's satisfaction with the Majles and his support for it is definite proof that this body has a remarkable and appropriate position regarding the revolution and its principles. What should be kept in mind, however, is the fact that the powers present on the scene should not be able to erode the strong position and the imam's line in the Majles by carrying out unprincipled moves and exerting illogical pressure, and by spewing venom and creating an adverse atmosphere in various ways.

With the levers that they wield, by creating an atmosphere of intimidation or temptation, or by resorting to various other ploys, they thwart this rightful position of the oppressed and deprived ones. On principle, the Majles and the deputies should ensure that whatever they have in mind should be coordinated with the revolution and the imam's line. It should be in accordance with the general will of the deprived and oppressed people in Iranian society and, on principle, with the will of all the Muslims and the Islamic ummah outside Iran, not just one particular stratum.

In brief, we should move on the path of the pure Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him) as the Majles did in the

imam's lifetime, without any fear or dread of anyone. Today, after the imam, the same movement should continue. We should not fall into retrogression in the wake of the imam's demise, lest the same problems which confronted us prior to the revolution should rear their heads once again.

Answer to Question Three:

Our foremost priority is the popularizing of the pure Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him), the real tenets and principles of which are the liberation of human beings from the yoke of infidelity, apostasy, and idolatry and its various forms. If in earlier times the idols were made of wood or stone and, in the time of Moses, the Pharaoh became the idol, today the East and West have become idols and the reactionary Islamic countries and the Eastern and Western world are worshipping these two idols. Unfortunately, the powers of world oppression spearheaded by the criminal United States are striving to convince the various nations of the world that without the presence of the United States, the West, or the Soviet Union, they cannot continue to exist. These idols should be shattered.

One of the achievements of the imam was to shatter the powerful idol of the United States. We must always make it our priority in our country to ensure that the United States remains shattered in the hearts, minds, and spirit of our Islamic society. This idol must never take shape again or be placed before our society. The United States is the archsatan and the enemy of humanity. Hatred and loathing should be inspired in the hearts and minds of our Iranian nation, and should be manifested overtly and distinctly in our conduct and mentality. The day we stop sensing this danger or forget it will be the day of our destruction or annihilation. Enmity with the United States is the guarantee of the political, economic, and cultural independence of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Our next priority, after Islam and the principles of the revolution, is the issue of tackling the conditions of the deprived and defending the oppressed, who include the people in general in this country. We must also tackle the heartless capitalists and the thesis of Western culture and economy. This thesis cast its inauspicious shadow over our country and nation like a massive curtain for over 50 years and produced a number of capitalists who accumulated wealth and were outwardly Muslims but bereft of any Islamic characteristics. They brought the nation under their control and shackled it completely for the benefit of the policy of the West and the United States. Therefore, the support of the oppressed should constitute another priority at the head of our agenda in the formulation of our laws and in their subsequent implementation, as well as in our slogans.

The next issue which is also among our priorities is that we should know and understand that our revolution is not something separate from the world of Islam, and we should act accordingly. The responsibilities of this revolution and this system are not limited by Iran's geographical boundaries. It is a world- encompassing revolution, and this sense of responsibility should extend to the entire Islamic ummah and Islamic countries. Just as we care for every speck of Iranian soil, so we should feel responsible for other Islamic countries, including Lebanon and Palestine.

As regards the internal affairs of the country, the subject of the strengthening of the Armed Forces' defense structure takes special priority. The imam rightly decreed a 20-million strong army and conjured up the image of a country in which all the young people received military and ideological training in order to combat all kinds of dangers. If we wish to establish peace in the region, we should have superiority as regards military power, or at least parity. Our defense lines on the borders should be extremely strong until Resolution 598 is implemented; otherwise, Iraq will continue its obstructionism and the world will continue to support Iraq in order to denigrate us. Therefore, there is no way of establishing peace except by maintaining complete military readiness on the front lines.

The other issue among our priorities is the cultural factor in society. All manifestations of Western deviations should be combated earnestly and in a multifaceted way. In this regard the mass media should follow the lines of the revolution and propagate the true culture of the revolution and Islam. In the aftermath of the imam's demise, radio and television have assumed an unfortunate attitude. Every day we witness the streams of decadent Western culture which are being popularized. On 13 Aban [4 November], the historical and destiny-making date of the revolution and the country, all expectations should have been focused on this day of the imam's historical action with regard to capitulation [preceding word in English] and the students' action in the occupation of the den of spies. The culture of struggle and the culture of the Islamic revolution should have been propagated. However, we saw that the radio and television gave minimum coverage to these subjects, while Health Day was accorded inappropriately extensive attention.

In any case, one of our priorities should be a serious approach to moral corruption and deviant Western culture. The vices and immorality of this filthy and deviant culture will gradually assume a political form. In short, we should accord priority to social, cultural, security, and defense matters above all else. Priority should initially be given to these matters which are constantly projected in the world of the East and the West and which are viewed from the economic angle. Yes, the East and the West cannot see anything in this world except themselves and do not believe in anything beyond this world of matter and nature.

Thus they draw up images for themselves and for the world of governments and trends. Economic issues are peripheral compared with political and cultural issues,

and if a nation's economy is healthy but dependent and shackled like a lackey, that nation cannot be considered prosperous or fortunate. Regardless of how comfortable the life of a slave may be, he is still a slave. A human being should have freedom and independence which should exist in society. It is here that the enemy wishes to convince our officials and nation that we should attend to mundane needs and material welfare and resolve our economic problems.

It has been stated by some of the officials that with the improvement in our economic condition some cultural problems may crop up which we will be forced to accept. Yes. The United States is a country with a flourishing economy. It is an industrial country, and even though its industry is not a mere assembly-line industry, it will never permit us to have our own independent industries. It has no fear or qualms. It is not afraid of Japan or Germany either. What the United States is afraid of is a revolutionary country like Iran which is a free, indepenedent, revolutionary country and an example of how the interests of the United States, the archsatan, can be endangered or destroyed.

Answer to Question Four:

As regards the 5-year plan, unfortunately what has been seen so far is that it is more of a colorful program of economic problems—which it terms economic development—for 5 years and it is obvious that whatever it is, it refers to materialistic needs—water, bread, and the people's stomachs. Very little is mentioned with regard to wisdom, culture, or the political and spiritual thought of this country and its independence. It is on this basis that one of the weak points of this plan is the economic development of these problems for 5 years. [sentence as published]

In addition, it may be mentioned that while the plan refers to other matters related to credit and an assembly-line industry, it ignores the necessary agricultural development and pays insufficient attention to matters pertaining to the country's rural areas. At present 50 percent of our population is concentrated in the villages, but in the 5-year plan we see that one fifth of the budget, or even less, has been allocated for rural affairs and the expansion and development of agriculture. If we wish to protect our country's independence, even its material independence, we must be more active with regard to agricultural issues.

President Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Prayers Sermon

LD1512195789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 15 Dec 89

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University mosque on 15 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] This verse stresses that one should refrain from sinful deeds while preserving devotion to virtues. One should welcome good deeds.

Before embarking on delivering the sermons I would like to draw your attention to the point that today, for the first time, the Friday prayers have been moved from the usual site to the university mosque. Although some of our brothers and sisters insist on enduring cold and rain to remain at the open air site at the Tehran University lawn, the headquarters for holding Friday prayers did not deem it right. Of course, the people are prepared to do so, but it is not fair to keep our self-sacrificing people for hours on end on the wet ground. Eventually, the day must come when the people can be under a roof when attending prayers, if there is rain. In provincial towns and centers right now they have built prayer grounds [mosalla] but in Tehran, because the mosalla was drawn up on an ambitious scale, it is not yet ready. God willing, what happened today will encourage us to finish the project. This is important and something which we must think about. The people of Tehran have ample financial power, therefore it is really not suitable for the people of Tehran not to have a suitable prayer ground while poor towns have them. God willing, we will make up this lack.

In our Friday prayer debates, the first sermon, a bracket was opened as we talked on social justice. In that bracket we said that Islam is a religion for life, it gives to us a program for living and that Islam is not one-dimensional. I also delivered several sermons. Meanwhile, today I intend to cut my sermon short. Despite the fact that a number of people are under the roof, there are a large number of people still out in the rain. Some have umbrellas but others do not. It is not fair to keep them long. I will abbreviate my debate and add a few points to complete the said debate.

We said that the Koran and the lifestyle of our prophets have given us a plain lesson; that is the fact that the divine religions want the life of their followers to be well. We are bound by faith to utilize the resources of the earth for a better life. We said the most important measure in that path is the effort to increase productivity. In another chapter of the sermons we also said that to do so is not possible unless labor is given its suitable status in the society. We talked on these topics for as much as one can put them in a sermon.

Two or three points come to mind which need explanation. All the queries and telephone calls and so forth tell us we have to explain these points to those who are not very well acquainted with Islamic culture.

One point with which we increasingly come face to face in our debate is this—some gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen are worried that placing stress on labor, effort, production, and so forth may lead to a weakening of the religious and spiritual dimension of Islam. Here we must explain that in all programs and speeches we usually emphasize the dimension which deals with obedience,

morality, and spirituality. It seldom happens that a religious speech or writing does not concern itself with spiritual and moral issues. These other issues are the ones which receive insufficient attention; that is, responsible for Islam's being presented as one dimensional in the minds of the committed and devout people. Even foreigners, those who are more remote from our culture, believe that Islam is the relationship between the individual and God—presenting faith as a personal issue between man and God. That is the very perversion of which we have always been afraid, the very pain we feel. And that stems from the fact that, for the guidance and salvation of our people, we place the lion's share of our emphasis on moral, worship, and spiritual issues. [passage omitted]

What is a perversion, one which is rejected by Islam, is that one must not be so absorbed in worship, morality, and spirituality that one neglects the part related to life and natural needs and that people believe that such affairs are not within the sphere of faith. It would be dangerous if the people were to attribute attention to material needs to infidelity. Such attitude separates Islam from its identity. Our great men have paid attention to these issues and drawn attention to them.

Another point which needs explanation is this: Under the influence of previous sermons underlining the importance of labor and actual physical work, some of our senior managers have come to us wanting to abandon their educational and university jobs to go work in factories or farms or the like. It seems that some believe that now that we stress higher productivity, cultural, management, or scientific work at headquarters lacks the same value as working in a factory or farm. That was also not our view.

I have said there must be a division of labor. If we fail to have strong management, then neither will we have strong factories. [passage omitted]

The point in question is to overcome weaknesses. That is our problem at present. The main problem in our society is [words indistinct] or our society, our culture does not attach enough importance to practical work as opposed to administrative and management tasks. That is the main point in question.

The problem facing backward countries—most of which are Muslim countries—is that arrogance, colonialists, exploiters, aggressors, monopolists, expansionists, and big military and political powers have become financially successful and strong. Of course, in terms of education, training managers, and manpower which are the backbone of the society, they are successful. They [words indistinct] the spiritual and humanitarian aspect of a civilized society. As a result, they are aggressive, bullying, unjust, and are not satisfied with their own lot. They have made themselves prosperous by making the majority of the people of the world miserable, silent, and poor. Their spiritual side has declined while they have been successful at work.

We must progress on all fronts. God willing, we will be able to bring forth the Islamic society, which exists in Iran today, in all aspects. [passage omitted]

In the course of our visit to that village, we visited and spoke with some families of martyrs. In one household there were three brothers, one of whom claimed to own 5 hectares of land while the other claimed 15 hectares. In our region, in the heart of Rafsanjan or other villages in Yazd or Esfahan, anyone who owns five hectares of land is considered very wealthy. Such a person has sufficient income to make his pilgrimage to Mashhad [site of Imam Reza shrine], pay his khoms and zakat [mandatory religious payments], and his standard of living is likely to improve. I myself, my brothers, sisters, and other villagers, none of us own five hectares. In a village composed of 96 habbeh [old unit of measurement], the whole of our family owns 12 out of that 96 habbeh—five sons and four daughters—and we all managed to live there and continue to live there now.

A villager converts one or two hectares of land into a farm. He owns a few sheep, a cow, and uses the leaves and timber from the tree. He uses the grass on his land and everything else on it, as well as doing another job. Once he has finished his work on the farm—and sometimes he employs workers to finish what he has started—he can indeed earn his living. What I mean is that in our country there are many places—places of good quality—such as Khuzestan, West and East Azarbayjan, Kurdestan and many other places endowed with good natural resources. So it is wrong to say that four or five hectares of land is not sufficient for people to live on. A household in a village need only work on their own land. When a child reaches a certain age...[Hashemi-Rafsanjani changes thought] the women should do their share at home by knitting, sewing, carpet weaving, and other tasks which are useful in a village. The youth should also do his share of work, once he has done his school homework. When children's eyes are exposed to city life and they find their way into the city, they no longer return to the village. This is a mistake. They should learn a skill in the city and then return to the village with their expertise. At present, the government is trying to provide trade opportunities in fields in which the people wish to work. We have asked them to place the mines at the disposal of the people. We have hundreds of mines—chalk, salt, construction, mineral ores—all sorts of mines. The pupils at school, instead of working in the cities as assistant shopkeepers or secretaries, should return to their villages and seek employment in the villages such as herding, poultry-farming, and tending the pastures. Those who live on the coast have access to many kinds of employment from sea resources. [passage omitted]

In any case, the point that I am trying to make is this: Our country's youth should think about production before attempting to obtain jobs in offices, shops, trade centers, and so on. They in turn will construct their own workshops. At present, one of the initiatives which the Employment Ministry is pursuing is to go into the

villages and create jobs for the people, to provide employment tools for such employment for which they can stay in their villages. [passage omitted]

It should not be such that now that we have established a Shiite country, we go and get our wheat from the land of infidels. We do indeed have our own wheat. In any case, the second point which I said needs explanation was that when we say manual or field work, we are not against a division of labor. Work should be divided, and each should do his own. But one should do the work at which one-is better. It would be cruel if, for example, we took one of our researchers from the university or laboratory and told him to go and plant date trees. This is an injustice and such injustice does exist in society.

This is not what I mean. What I mean is that there is a mood which is prevalent among some of our people, specifically our youth who unfortunately are prone to perversion. They think that after the 3d level of high school one can no longer take up manual work. They should remove such thoughts from their minds. They should all be prepared to enter the field of work. If we develop such an attitude which allows us to take all the dimensions of Islam into consideration—spiritual alongside effort and humanitarian—as well as the division of labor in accordance with abilities and potentials, avoiding idleness, being a burden on the society, and living by sucking the blood of the others. If we manage to free ourselves from such an attitude, then we would be able to consider our society an Islamic one. Adherence to our ideals, remaining revolutionaries, filling all the mosques, becoming all religious with good behavior, but having a low standard of living or living in poverty, then such society would fail to establish itself in the world and such Islam would fail to be a global Islam. Global Islam is that which encompasses all dimensions of life. This is the reality of Islam, and it would be an injustice to Islam if we think we can be good Muslims in that way.

Second Prayers Sermon

LD1512191889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1202 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University mosque on 15 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I wanted to give you a brief report on my trip to Khuzestan which concerns all of you—not just a report, because you have been listening to the news and I myself, at the end of the visit, made some brief remarks in an interview. I would like to draw some conclusions from my visit which concern everyone. Of course, I wanted to hold a long discussion but with the present weather conditions, I will make it short.

The goals of our visit had two or three aspects. One was to review reconstruction, another to review the destruction caused by flooding and, regarding another part of reconstruction, to review Khuzestan's industries and harbor facilities which play an important role in our country. God willing, I will make some brief remarks on all three issues.

About reconstruction, now that there is time to review the situation there, we see that the people have lost a great deal, directly and indirectly.

The casualties, the loss of our dear people, is one thing and having it happen is another. They went back to God. The great assets that our nation and our revolution conquered [as heard] to defend Islam and the revolution are very great things. The self-sacrificing devotees, the martyrs, and the burden that their families suffer is another chapter. We did not make the visit just for that purpose; that is always on our agenda.

The destruction and losses suffered by the people in the war stricken areas—particularly the areas occupied by the enemy and apart from the destruction of public resources such as factories, production centers—their losses are quite extensive. There is a need for national effort to enable us to compensate for a part of those people's losses. The same villages which I talked about in my first sermon are the country's resources.

In Khuzestan and Ilam and Bakhtaran and a part of Kordestan, a great number of villages have been obliterated, about 1,000 villages.

In Abadan, we went to some areas where they were reconstructing villages and saw that the people are returning there little by little. There is nothing to go back to. The palm trees, the palm plantations that are in fact one of the country's assets—each palm tree is an asset for people's life and the country—have suffered a great deal within these 7 or 8 years of bullets, water shortages, brackish water, and closed canals. They have survived up to a point because of the presence of a number of people there or for the attention paid to them by the Basijis and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] and others. But they have suffered extensively. [passage omitted] We must now spend a great deal to rebuild these 1,300 villages, so that their inhabitants can return. [passage omitted]

The country faces huge expenditures which it must and will incur. We had already allocated this year's reconstruction budget, but, with the permission of the esteemed leader, we have allocated a new sum, which we are spending now. [passage omitted]

The speed at which the work progresses requires public participation. Provinces have been assigned to assist all the affected areas; that is, every province is to help in reconstruction. Because of [words indistinct] conditions these provinces are not very active. We must help them in accordance with our Islamic, humanitarian, national, and revolutionary duty. Those who gave so much in support of the war must not forget that now that we are not asking the people anything for the war because we

are no longer at war, they must take part in reconstruction. The Friday imams must constantly call on the people to do so. [passage omitted]

Instead of asking the government anything now, the cities, ministries, departments, and foundations must help provide living facilities for those people more quickly and return them to their homes. It really pains one to see those people being kept waiting in camps. God willing, you will do your duty.

About the flood: Of course, rain is a divine blessing. Its advantages far outweigh the damage it causes. However, we have suffered relatively heavy damage in the southern parts of the country. And since last night, according to reports I have received, we have problems in many areas. Thank God, there has been sufficient rainfall in most parts of the country this year. Here [Tehran] and in some areas rainfall has not been sufficient, but because of recent rain, we should be thankful for God's blessing. However, in return for this blessing, we must help those who have suffered; that is, the people must not forget that it is their duty to help flood victims. [passage omitted]

It is a very important duty of the government and Majles to struggle to harness that water. Of course, it is not a question of that area only; Khuzestan is just an example. In the country, in places which we have identified, we can obtain about 20,000 mw of electricity from dams. At the moment, the level of electricity consumption is about 7,000 mw. In other words, we can obtain three times the current level of electricity used by harnessing those waters, and that would suffice for the next 10 to 15 years, regardless of how much progress we make, how much we advance, electrifying villages and cities, installing air conditioners, heaters. The cheapest electricity is hydroelectric because once the dam is constructed and the turbines begin to work, the water by simply passing through the turbine produces electricity. It does not pollute the environment; it does not need major expenditure. Attacking it is also difficult. Even if there is war, our hydroelectric power stations... [changes thought] Even though Iraq attacked our hydroelectric stations many times, it was never able to disrupt operations because they are at the bottom of valleys, at the foot of mountains, and they are protected.

Therefore, one of the main duties of the government, the Majles, and us is to harness those waters. If the waters of Khuzestan—the north, that is, north of the Alborz Mountains—Mazandaran and Gilan, and West Azarbayjan, Kordestan, Bakhtaran, Ilam, East Azarbayjan, and Khorasan, places which have many rivers and have rain—if we harness those waters, we will have performed a major task for the country. In the 10-year plan, we intend to do that. We have also included it in the 5-year plan. It is now in the Majles. Some of the discussions which are raised at the societal level in newspapers sometimes is about that same question: whether it is in our interest to build those dams and harness those waters with help from others. I am of the opinion, as are many others, mostly in the Majles, the majority of the Majles, and the government—they are of the opinion that yes, it is in our interest and if those dams are built, the result of those dams will repay the debts incurred, if there are any, within 1 or 2 years. Employment will be created and protection will be provided for people—lives will be protected—by the dams. And there are many other points, matters which will be raised and discussed in the economic debates in the Majles. You will hear them.

One of the things which I really regretted on behalf of the nation during my trip was when I saw the flooding in Ramshir—and we flew over in a helicopter and saw many places—I saw that the greatest injustice had been committed against thoe people in the past under the former regime. That great wealth of the people which is God's blessing for saving the people has now turned into an affliction. Those people have struggled to build a farm and then find the water coming down and ruining everything on the farm. That is a cause for regret which must, God willing, be redressed in the future. I say right now to the people who have suffered that, God willing, we will rush to their assistance and that after the next one or two plans, they will not suffer from that problem. The industrial resources, ports, and other things which we saw in Khuzestan were very valuable. They inspired hope. We have very good resources; we can be sure that if we act wisely and advisedly, any lack of development can rapidly be redressed.

Another point I want to raise in this sermon is in commemoration of the martyrdom of Her Holiness Zahra. On the death anniversary of her holiness, it is appropriate for us to say a few words to our honorable sisters in the country. [passage omitted] All your energy should be spent on bringing yourselves close to Her Holiness Zahra. I want to say to the women of our own country, to those who follow the path of Her Holiness Zahra, I say congratulations. There are many such women, most of the women in our country. But there are a number of women who seem not to be prepared yet to adjust themselves to the revolution. And, in our streets, in public places, they appear in such a way that it causes pain to people who have invested in this revolution, who have given martyrs, POW's, relatives missing-in-action, are selfless devotees, who have given their possessions, who have spent energy and time. They have invested a great deal in the revolution and they want models of Zahra; they want Zahra to serve as a model for women in the country. They will not change their minds. So do not unnecessarily make trouble for yourselves; do not upset the nation; you will reap no benefit.

A woman may think that if she reveals a lock of her hair on the street, if she thinks she is thereby making a protest against the revolution, she is making a mistake. If it is her physical desire which is making her do that, again she is making a mistake. If she is thinking of the interests of her own strata of the people, she is making a mistake. We want all women in our country to behave in such a way that when they go to a university, to an office, wherever, there should be no need for inspection and so on. It is

such actions which cause problems for ladies who have all the qualities of faithful women. Because of the appearance of those impurities, they, too, have problems, are subjected to inspection. I think that that ranks among unacceptable mistakes in a society which is Islamic and revolutionary in its foundations, in which freedoms exist to an adequate degree. I told you: No one is forcing you to wear a veil. Although we consider the veil to be an appropriate covering for women. You can wear a suitably modest dress or a color of your own choosing, in public, in offices, in universities, in schools, anywhere in the country as long as you refrain from offensive gestures and unsuitable behavior and do not draw unpleasant reactions upon yourselves. In any case, an Islamic society defends itself; that is for certain. [crowd chants support]

In any case, we consider you to be part of society, one of us. We believe that you can move in concert with the majority of the society. And you, for your part, should not try (?to provoke society); you should do things which will be to your own advantage and to the advantage of others. I have told you the essence of the matter in this kind and friendly manner. If you set Her Holiness Zahra as your model, you can be exemplary women and you, too, can follow that path. We are not saying that everyone can be like Her Holiness Zahra, but they can follow that path.

For my Arabic sermon, I had intended to speak about the war and the talks on the UN resolution, but as the weather is not very good I will forgo that and pray. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Velayati Conditionally Accepts Direct Talks

LD1512220489 Tehran IRNA in English 2026 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] United Nations, New York, Dec. 15, IRNA—Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati today announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's conditional readiness to hold direct talks with Iraq. He said if Baghdad accepted the agenda of the peace talks on the basis of Article 41 of the UN secretary general's report to the Security Council, Tehran would hold direct talks with it.

Speaking at a news conference here after holding a last round of talks with Javier Perez de Cuellar, Velayati said the new round of the talks had again ended fruitlessly because of Iraq's renewed obstructions. He added that the Baghdad regime only raised preconditions and did not answer the UN chief's proposals regarding Article 41 of his report.

Article 41 of the secretary general's written report to the Security Council stipulates that withdrawal of forces and repatriation of the POWS should take place immediately for the cause of the implementation of Resolution 598.

Velayati told the conference that Iraq had also rejected Iran's latest initiative drawn on the basis of Article 41 of the UN chief's report calling for a simultaneous troop withdrawal and exchange of pows.

He said his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz had not accepted the secretary general's constructive proposals and instead left New York without giving any response to the agenda proposed by Perez de Cuellar for the new round of the talks.

"In our opinion the Security Council should take action today and put pressure on the party which is hindering the progress of the talks," Velayati said.

In response to a question on an Iraqi proposal to set up five joint Iran-Iraq experts committees, Velayati said it was the duty of the secretary general not of the Iraqi foreign minister, to decide the agenda of the talks. "Whenever we started a new round of talks they were deadlocked by new Iraqi preconditions," Velayati regretted. "This has become clear both to the secretary general and to observers."

He said the UN chief proposed a time-table for the implementation of the resolution's articles which "we accepted but Iraq did not." Later, he added, Mr. Perez de Cuellar proposed his four-point plan which Iran accepted the same day but Iraq postponed its response to the next round of the talks in Geneva but has left it unanswered so far.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian foreign minister reiterated Tehran's readiness to exchange all the wounded and disabled POWS and said Iran would soon release another group of wounded Iraqi pows on humanitarian grounds. He said since six months ago, Iran has been sending home disabled Iraqi POWS and regretted that Iraq did not reciprocate. "If the Iraqis have really good-intentions why don't they reciprocate Iran's humanitarian moves," he asked. Velayati said Iran's proposal for a simultaneous troop withdrawal and exchange of POWS stemmed from its concern for the prisoners of war.

Regarding the 1975 Algiers agreement between the two countries, he said it had been signed by the then foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq and was not something either of the two parties could abrogate unilaterally. This has been stressed in the accord too, he said. Iraq has announced that the 1975 accord is a dead document and asked for a new agreement to decide the border river between the two countries. But Velayati said the Algiers agreement had been registered at the United Nations and published by the international body as a valid document in 1986.

Velayati expressed hope that Iraq would accept the secretary general's agenda for the peace talks in the future, otherwise, he said, the negotiations would remain stalled.

A Western reporter asked Velayati if there was any chance for the Western hostages in Lebanon to be released on the eve of the new year and if Iran would take any action to this end. Velayati replied that the situation in Lebanon was very complicated and that no one could claim to have full control over the country. He added that Iran had spared no effort in securing the release of the hostages whenever it thought it would succeed in doing so.

Iraq's Comment at United Nations Questioned

LD1712203189 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—Yet another round of the U.N. sponsored indirect peace negotiations has ended in failure because of the Iraqi regime's opposition to the U.N. secretary general's new proposal and its raising of more pre-requisites for implementation of Security Council resolution 598.

Although Javier Perez de Cuellar based his latest talks with the two countries' foreign ministers on paragraph 41 of his September report to the Security Council which stresses withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iranian soil together with the POW swap, Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz practically rejected the U.N. chief's proposal.

'Aziz continued to stick to Baghdad's earlier demand for setting up of, what it calls five expert committees to implement the resolution, even though the U.N. chief in his report to the Security Council on the outcome of special envoy Jan Eliasson's visit, had made it clear that the Iraqi proposal was outside the framework of Resolution 598.

'Aziz did not stop at that, but raised another absurd prerequisite in his talks with Perez de Cuellar, and had the audacity to insist that Iraqi troops will withdraw from Iranian territories only if Tehran accepts Baghdad's sovereignty over the Arvand River.

Among other impediments in the way of peace is the Ba'thist demand for direct talks, and its indulging in intimidatory propaganda.

A short glance at Iraqi propaganda machine on the eve of 'Aziz's departure for New York indicates the fact that the Iraqi came to the U.N. Headquarters with all shutters down. He came to prolong the deadlock and not to find a way out of it, because just before 'Aziz set for new York, Baghdad reported the launching of a rocket.

The rocket, said the Iraqi foreign minister 'is meant to confront plots against Iraqi security including Iran's unfinished threat.'

The claims of 'Iranian threat' brings under question Baghdad's stance, and its impudent obstruction of the peace process.

It seems Iraqi is not acting alone, and has certainly received assurances from certain political quarters, chief among them the influential permanent members of the Security Council.

Although China and the Soviet Union have no objection to the execution of resolution 598, the motives of the great satan (U.S.) and its loyal follower (Britain) remain under question.

Washington and London should have learned from their relations with the Islamic Republic over the past ten years that Iran never retreats an inch from its positions vis-a-vis both the states.

Transforming the peace talks into an instrument for imposing their sinister policies will surely not serve the interests of the two Security Council members, especially in view of the latest principled stand of the islamic Republic in the region and its refusal to give in to the Saudi regime.

It is also time the U.N. chief and the Security Council took action against the side obstructing the progress of peace talks.

Is the Security Council content in passively watching Iraqi heedlessness towards the resolution which that U.N. body passed two years ago with hue and cry, and pressured Iran for its acceptance?

It is expected that the secretary general will realistically discuss all the related issues, and the Security Council will adopt firm decisions to accelerate enforcement of 598, by putting pressure where it is due.

However, one thing should be borne in mind, that the passage of time will not solve any problem by itself but will instead create new and further complications.

Final Phase of 'Zolfeqar-5' Maneuvers Begins

LD1512144289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] The final phase of the extensive joint 'Zolfeqar-5' maneuvers has begun in waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

In the first phase of this stage, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] naval forces and the Islamic Republic's Army, using the most developed military techniques and the most modern equipment, will stage operations in radar coverage, reconnaissance, and the control of the waterways from the entrance point to the exit points and the points where the forces merge.

In the operations staged so far, the Army and the IRGC, in a series of coordinated operations, using naval battleships, destroyers, and rocket-launching frigates, and also air units belonging to the Islamic Republic's Air Force, together with heavy and medium floating units, speedboats, frogmen, and special units of the IRGC naval forces, launched several reconnaissance operations over

a wide area. They also maintained close observation on the sensitive and strategic region of the Strait of Hormuz, as well as the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

The brave men from the Army and the IRGC used the most important equipment and expert gear, and closely monitored, from both air and sea, any movements through the waterways, various other movements, and all possible penetrating actions. In the continuation of this phase, the complementary operations and the evaluation of various stages of the maneuvers will take place.

The commanders of the expert operations by the Navy and the naval forces of the IRGC have described the monitoring and reconnaissance operations as very good and successful.

The 'Zolfeqar-5' maneuvers will continue until midday tomorrow.

Gulf Maneuvers Conclude

LD1612180889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] The magnificant "Zolfeqar-5" maneuvers staged in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman ended. Central News Unit correspondent Payamani in Bandar-e 'Abbas compiled the following report:

[Payamani] The magnificant joint "Zolfeqar-5" maneuvers successfully came to a close after a series of planned operations and exercises. These extraordinary maneuvers were staged in order to increase the combative, defensive, and technical capability of the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army and Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC]. They began on 9 December this year and continued in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman until noon today. The tripartite forces of the Islamic Republic's Army and the IRGC deployed tens of destroyers, rocket-launching vessels, logistic and personnel carrier vessels, aircraft carriers, Air Force fighters, mine-sweeping helicopter squadrons, antisurface and underwater surveillance helicopters, as well as speedboats and advanced missile systems, and over 10,000 special personnel forces of the Army and IRGC.

In seven phases, they carried out extensive amphibious, aerial tracing, transit, electronic warfare, surface and underwater operations, tactical operations, minesweeping, helicopter landing and take-off operations on floating vessels, in addition to coordinated attacks staged by the IRGC's speedboats and the Army's naval battleships against hypothetical enemy headquarters and aerial defense reconnaissance. They displayed a very high standard of military dexterity in an area of over 20,000 square km of the Persian Gulf waters and the Gulf of Oman.

In these magnificant maneuvers, a number of vessels built by the IRGC's naval force were deployed for the first time.

Commander: Maneuvers 'Outstanding'

LD1612181389 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—Navy Commander Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani here Saturday described outcome of the week-long joint Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) maneuvers in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman waters as "outstanding and unprecedented."

Speaking to reporters, Rear Admiral Shamkhani noted that Zolfeqar-5 manuevers in comparison to those launched in the course of the Iraqi imposed war, demonstrated a higher combat power of the Iranian forces. He stressed that cooperation of the Army and the IRGC in the maneuvers was the outstanding characteristics of the operations which would be employed in future activities.

Describing the maritime know-how of the Iranian Army as "being unique in the region", the Navy commander said that even the enemies had realised that technological and technical sanctions of Western powers on Iran did not have the least effect on progresses made by the Iranian naval forces.

As for the presence of U.S. and European fleets in the Zolfeqar-5 operational zone, he said that in the past these fleets did not need to be present in the operational areas to gather information on the maneuvers because counterrevolutionary agents would provide them with required data.

But, he stressed, after smashing of the U.S. espionage network in the Persian Gulf region by the Iranian Information Ministry they have been deprived of such information and, therefore, needed to be directly present.

He noted that the impudent presence of the foreign naval forces in the Persian Gulf waters was no longer tolerable for the regional states, adding that regional nations were able to safeguard security in the region.

Rear Admiral Shamkhani said that if Iraq abandoned its mischevous acts, U.S. and European fleets would have no more excuse to stay in the region and would be forced to leave regional waters.

Romania's Ceausescu Interviewed Before Visit

LD1712203289 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec 17, IRNA—Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu is looking forward to a new era in his country's relations with Iran, in view of the steadily growing trade ties with the Islamic Republic.

"The Iran-Romania summit is an expression of the positive course of relations between our countries and people," Ceausescu, who is to arrive here tomorrow on his first state visit to Iran, told a Tehran-based English

daily in a recent interview in Bucharest. He spoke of a number of good results "especially in economic and techno-scientific cooperation." The full text of the Romanian president's interview will appear in TEHRAN TIMES tomorrow.

"We envisage to develop the cooperation in production, in the heavy-duty industry, machine-construction, chemistry, petrochemistry, electro-technology, power engineering, as well as transfer of technology, and also in agriculture, transport, trade and in other sectors of mutual interest," Ceausescu was quoted as saying. "Great possibilities exist," he said, to keep developing the relations in science and culture between the two states "for a better mutual knowledge of the peoples' material and spiritual values."

Ceausescu thought that Iran and Romania have "common or very close" stands on many global issues, and said mutual collaboration should be extended to take "a more active part in the settlement of the complex issues in the world life, the achievement of disarmament, nuclear disarmament first and foremost, in the safeguarding of peace, to serve the general cause of all nations' progress."

He also welcomed Iran's July 1988 acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598, which seeks to end the Iraqi conflict, and hoped for solution to "all litigious problems, particularly those associated with the withdrawal of the (Iraqi) military forces to international borders."

The Romanian head of state then turned to his country's progress since the Second World War, and said "in an historically short lapse of time, Romania has become an industrial-agrarian country."

"We managed to pay off the foreign debt last March, our country becoming—for the first time in its history—completely free and independent both politically and economically," he added.

Asked to comment on the current developments in Europe in general and in Eastern Europe specifically, the Romanian president said: "The questions related to improving the management of society and, generally speaking, of all the areas of economic and social life, are a fundamental feature of each revolutionary party, since as is known, nothing is for ever, that permanently the improvement and renewal activity must go on."

As far as the current preoccupations in a number of socialist states are concerned, said Ceausescu, "We believe that they are a task incumbent on the party and the state leadership in each country. We are concerned that everything we do in this respect should take into account the interests of the working class and the peasants and the intelligentsia, of the respective peoples in general, and should lead to the socialist development of each country and not to a return to capitalist forms. It should lead them ahead not backwards."

Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Meets Zanjani

LD1612211289 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA—The Iran-Romania joint economic commission held its 7th meeting here today attended by Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion Radu and vice-president and head of Iran's planning and budget organisation Mas'ud Roghani Zanjani.

At the meeting Zanjani called on Romania to expand the volume of its non-oil imports from Iran, and said such exports are of special importance for the Islamic Republic. He also asked the Romanian side to resolve problems hindering the construction of a dam project at Saveh, 30 kms southwest of Tehran.

Radu in reply referred to the coming visit of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu to Iran starting next Monday [18 December], and said a draft is under preparation concerning long term cooperation between the two countries.

The volume of mutual trade exchanges is expected to rise to 2-3 billion dollars annually till the year 2000, once the plan is approved and carried out, Radu said.

Romanian companies are ready to supply necessary equipment for construction of the subway rail system in Iran, he added.

Friday afternoon, Radu and his team were in Saveh to inspect construction work at the huge dam project.

For the last few years Romanian experts have been cooperating with Iranian experts and engineers on the dam, which when completed will store 300 million cubic meters of water, and irrigate 22,500 hectares of farm land in the plain south of Saveh.

The Romanian deputy premier also met Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji this afternoon to discuss commercial ties.

Holds Talks With Aqazadeh

LD1712114989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] On the eve of the visit to our country by Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, Ion Radu, Romanian deputy prime minister and head of the Iran-Romania joint economic commission, and his accompanying delegation met with Oil Minister Aqazadeh this morning.

At this meeting they discussed the expansion of economic ties and bilateral petroleum cooperation. The Romanian deputy prime minister expressed his delight at the trend of mutual ties and requested the purchase of 130,000 tonnes of petroleum per month as well as natural gas from Iran.

Mr Aqazadeh remarked on the good relations between the two countries and announced our country's readiness to sell petroleum to Romania and expand bilateral

economic and petroleum cooperation. He agreed to the export of 1 billion cubic meters of natural gas to Romania, the quantity of which will be increased in the future.

Meets Minister of Mines, Metals

LD1712175689 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA—Ways of expanding Tehran-Bucharest cooperation in the fields of industries, cement and paper were discussed by visiting Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion Radu and Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh, Sunday.

Later in the day, Radu also held talks with Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi on mutual cooperation in the industries and the mining sector.

Radu, who chairs the Iran-Romania joint economic commission, arrived here last Friday at the head of a delegation. His visit precedes a state visit to Tehran of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu who is to arrive here Monday.

Pakistan

General on Construction of Laser-Guided Missiles

BK1612001789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1921 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 15 (AFP)—Pakistan has begun assembling the world's most deadly laser-guided RBS-70 anti-aircraft missiles, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said Friday [15 December]. It quoted the commander of Army-Air Defence, Major General Agha Masud Hassan, as saying that the RBS-70 missiles could hit "any flying object"—aircraft, helicopter or remotely piloted vehicle within a radius of five kilometres (three miles)—"with 100-percent capability." The laser-guided missile cannot be jammed or "disillusioned" by any evasive tactic of an enemy aircraft, APP said.

Maj. Gen. Hassan said the weapon was easy to operate and tests proved that it was "almost impossible" for any aircraft to protect itself once within the missile's range. He praised Pakistan nuclear scientist Abdul Qadir Khan, who he said had already "gifted" the shoulder-fired Anza-3 anti-aircraft missiles with a range of 4.2 kilometers (2.6 miles) and a weight of 9.5 kilograms (21 pounds), for his help in this field.

Pakistan has successfully mounted both Anza and RBS-70 missiles on armoured personnel carriers to make them self-propelled and easily maneuverable.

Pakistan has also acquired the latest U.S.-built radar, called the low-altitude air-defence system (LAADS). APP said the last laads consignment arrived here here just 10 days ago.

It said that LAADS could identify any craft flying at low altitude within 60 kms (37 miles) and could instantly transmit data and a picture of the flying object to the command post and gunners on a television screen.

President Meets With Visiting PRC Vice Minister

BK1612134689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment for using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. He was talking to the visiting Chinese vice minister for machinery and electronics, Mr Zeng Peiyan, in Islamabad today. Expressing satisfaction over Pakistan-China cooperation in various fields, the president hoped that it would greatly benefit both the countries. The Chinese vice minister said his visit is aimed at expanding cooperation in various fields, including machinery, electronics, shipbuilding, and agricultural machinery, between the two countries.

U.S.-Bound Heroin Seized; Factories Raided

BK1612105989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] The Frontier Corps has destroyed four heroin factories near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in the Chagai District of Baluchistan. In a major operation against drug traffickers yesterday, the Frontier Corps also destroyed several pounds of chemicals used to produce heroin. The drug smugglers managed to escape a short while before the operation started.

The customs authorities at Islamabad seized from a passenger at the airport 2 kg of heroin, which was apparently being smuggled to the United States.

Bomb Blasts Reported in Peshawar, Rawalpindi

BK1712152889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] A bomb exploded under a car at (Chautali Chowk) in Peshawar this evening, wounding one person. In Rawalpindi too, a minor explosion occurred at Seyasatdan Chowk this evening. Police sources say the blast which occurred in a Suzuki (?van) wounded a pedestrian.

2 Killed, 5 Wounded in Curfew-Bound Hyderabad

BK1512153289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Curfew restrictions were relaxed in Hyderabad and Latifabad from noon to 1500 today. A press note issued by the district magistrate of Hyderabad says that two persons were killed and five wounded as a result of shooting by unknown persons during the curfew and also during curfew relaxation today. The press note adds that the areas were immediately cordoned off and police and law enforcement agencies started search operations. Five troublemakers have been arrested along with their arms.

The press note adds that there will be no relaxation in curfew restrictions tomorrow.

6 Killed, 1 Injured

BK1612160089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] A few incidents of shooting were reported from various curfew-bound areas of Hyderabad and Latifabad today. Radio Pakistan's Hyderabad correspondent citing official sources has reported that six persons were killed and one injured in today's incidents. No relaxation of curfew was allowed today. Patrolling by law enforcement agencies is continuing.

Sri Lanka

U.S. Embassy's Maillot Kidnapped, Released

BK1712072089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0651 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Colombo, Dec 17 (AFP)—Suspected Tamil guerrillas hijacked a jeep of a controversial U.S. diplomat in northern Sri Lanka but freed him unharmed, security officials here said Sunday [17 December].

Gunmen stopped Paul Maillot, second secretary at the U.S. Embassy here, at Puliyankulam in Vavuniya district late Friday while he was returning from the town of Jaffna further north, officials said.

They said Mr. Maillot and another United States Information Service employee P. Thambiraja and their driver were ordered out of the vehicle and asked to take a passing vehicle to the nearby town of Vavuniya to go to Colombo.

Mr. Maillot has been accused in the Sri Lankan parliament of breaking the country's customs regulations at the international airport in October.

A ruling party MP linked Mr. Maillot's name with foreign funding to anti-government Sinhalese militants operating in the island's south. U.S. authorities have denied the charge.

Officials said Mr. Maillot had returned to Colombo but his vehicle has not been traced yet. No one claimed responsibility for hijacking the vehicle, but a security source said the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was active in the region.

IPKF Vacates Eastern Mullaitivu District

BK1412145889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Text] The Indian Peacekeeping Force—IPKF—today vacated eastern Mullaitivu District in Sri Lanka. An IPKF press release issued in Madras said it would complete deinduction from the remaining areas of the central sector by 31 December.

President on Indian Pullout; SAARC Summit

BK1712111889 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Excerpt] President R. Premadasa says that Sri Lanka's foreign policy reflects indigenous aspirations and the independence and sovereignty of the nation. Addressing the Executive Committee meeting of the United National Party [UNP] at Sri Kotte, the president explained that our foreign policy did not intrude on the rights of other countries. Mr Premadasa pointed out that efforts are being made to hold the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Colombo, but Sri Lanka could not compromise its position.

The president recalled the pledge made by the then Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, to withdraw the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] by the end of December this year. In another related development, the new Indian prime minister has said that the sending of the peacekeeping force was a mistake and was unwarranted. He [the Indian prime minister] said that immediate steps will be taken to withdraw the peacekeeping force.

The president said that Sri Lanka believed that action will be taken to promote peaceful cooperation among countries in the South Asian region.

Mr Premadasa stressed that we should prepare ourselves to solve our problems once the Indian troops are withdrawn. The president also made it clear that the rights of all sections of the community should be protected. [passage omitted]

President on Need To Strengthen Defense Forces

BK1612115589 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] President Premadasa said that the need to strengthen our defense forces, not only quantitatively but also qualitatively, has never been felt before as now. Sri Lanka has been one of the most peaceful countries of the world. It has been a country with a glorious historical past.

The president was speaking after inaugurating the academic block of the (Sitiyon Kotalawala) Defense Academy in Ratmalana yesterday. The president said: We have entered the contemporary era as one of the most viable in the democracies in Asia. We have all the reasons to be happy about the situation. However, I feel that we took things for granted. We were (?always) assuming that democracies like ours are unassailable. We never entertained fears (?of being) subversives. We have made a fundamental error. We failed to realize that measures taken toward the protection and fostering of democracy, peace, and fundamental rights must be accompanied by intensive preparedness for defense.

This is an aspect that has been neglected in the past. My government is now actively reviewing and remedying this situation.

Mr Premadasa pointed out that there is no alternative in a civilized country to the democratic process. In a democracy, the people are supreme. The rulers take their relations from the people. [sentence as heard] Our constitution embodies legislative guarantee of democratic rights and freedom. However, constitutions and governments duly elected by the people have to be physically protected. We must seek protection against internal and external subversion. This, in my view, is a social role of our defense forces. This is the moral responsibility of the armed services and the police. I think, we should be proud of the fact that our defense forces have acted with honor and dedication. He further said: They have stood laws of every successive governments, irrespective of their political ideologies. In the recent years, they have faced many stresses, strains, and challenges. They have displayed great courage and determination against many odds and obstacles. They have discharged their duties and responsibilities with admirable competitiveness.

The president pointed out that he was happy to be associated with the opening of the academic block of the defense academy. This is an important occasion of each and every citizen of Sri Lanka, and as you know, our country is facing one of the gravest tests to our national security. They emanate both from internal and external sources. At a time like this it is imperative that we accord the highest priority to our national defense.

LTTE To Contest Northeast Council Elections

BK1712101889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1003 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Madras, India, Dec 17 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which once sought one-party rule, announced here Sunday it would contest elections to the island's Northeastern Provincial Council.

The Tamil militant group leader Anton Balasingham said the LTTE would contest elections if they were held after the withdrawal of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) from the province and the disbanding of the Tamil National Army (TNC).

The announcement came after two-days of talks here between LTTE leaders, Mr. Balasingam and Yogiratnam Yogi, and southern Tamil Nadu State Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi, New Delhi's chosen troubleshooter in Sri Lanka.

Talking to reporters in this southern port city, Mr. Balasingham said the talks were "constructive, cordial and satisfactory", but analysts said the annoucement reveals the new thinking of the LTTE which earlier refused to negotiate with India.

The former separatist leader in his hour-long news conference said the LTTE would look after the security and guarantee "free and fair elections" in which all regional parties could participate.

"If necessary a team of Indian observers including journalists could oversee the elections," Mr. Balasingam told a reporter when asked how the group could guerantee polls to the provincial council were not held at gunpoint.

All of Sri Lanka had been militarised with political parties allowed to carry weapons and yet elections were being held, he said, adding that it would be the responsibility of the Sri Lankan Election Commission to conduct the polls.

There would be no "security vacuum after the IPKF leaves. There was no vacuum in the north-east before the IPKF came and there would be none when it leaves. The LTTE is totally opposed to the presence of any military on the Eelam (independent) soil," Mr. Balasingham said. [passage omitted]

JVP Leaders' Deaths Noted; Fight To Continue

BK1612112489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Colombo, Dec 16 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Sinhalese rebels have vowed to continue their armed struggle, despite the death of their top leadership.

The Politburo of the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), for the first time acknowledged the death of its chief and founder Rohana Wijeweera and his deputy Upatisa Gamanayake in a statement dated November 20 and made available to the local press here Friday [15 December].

"We pledge to carry forward our struggle," the statement in Sinhalese said.

"This government which had offered all protection to the JVP leaders and invited them for talks, killed Wijeweera, Gamanayake and (H.B) Herath, our beloved leaders, in the most ruthless manner."

"We know who killed them. The day they will pay for it is not very far," the statement said.

Mr. Herath, a senior leader of the group, was killed along with Mr. Wijeweera in a shootout at a hideout after the JVP chief betrayed its location following his arrest by security forces November 12, the government had announced.

The government said Mr. Gamanayke, who was captured by the forces the next day, died when he attempted to escape and soldiers opened fire.

The JVP Politburo said "history will exonerate our leaders, who laid down their lives to liberate their motherland and fought against Indian imperialism and the illegal government to safeguard freedom, justice, fair play and true democracy."

But it told its supporters that the march forward was not easy and the path was "full of bloodshed and tears."

The statement said Sri Lanka was "facing a crisis today" under the present government, which it dubbed the "worst rulers in history."

The statement accused the government of "betraying the country to Indian imperialism" and said this, along with the economic crisis and the killing of "innocent civilians by the government," were the main problems facing the country.

The JVP, which is violently opposed to the presence of Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka's east and north under a July 1987 peace agreement, said they would never leave the island.

"The IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force) will not leave our shores," the statement said. "Even if they leave, their puppet (Tamil) forces are there to look after their interests."

Meanwhile, JVP rebels shot or hacked to death 20 people, including nine members of a family, in the Deniyaya area of the southern district of Matara late Thursday, local officials said.

They said the JVP had accused the victims of having celebrated the death of its leaders by setting off firecrackers.

A government statement here Saturday said in fresh incidents reported during the last 24 hours that the security forces shot dead four JVP activists at Passara in the central district of Badulla.

Those killed included a district secretary of the group, it added.

It said the rebels killed a clerk of a state-owned bank in the same place and set fire to several government buildings elsewhere.

The security forces rounded up nearly 100 rebel suspects during extensive cordon and search operations, the statement said.